

FRIDAY

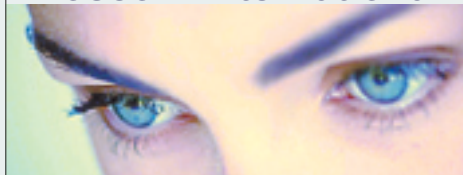
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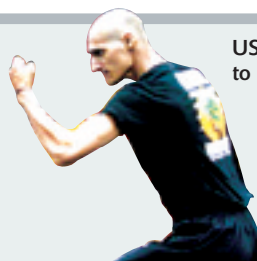
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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Bioscor International



First in a four-week
skin care special.
Page 19



US disciples pay respects
to Shaolin masters.
Page 7

Faded, blue, what's best
for you?
Page 18



Net users map out mugging and pick pocket hotspots

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Secret of the universe revealed

A new astronomy exhibition called 'Explore the Secret of the Universe' kicked off yesterday at Beijing Planetarium.

Photo by Hao Yi

Hospital pays compensation to fake ambulance victim's family

By Qiu Jiaoning

Beijing Zhong'ao Brain Disease Hospital this week paid 200,000 yuan to the family of an old man who died after he was hit by a motorcycle and taken to the hospital by a fake ambulance without adequate emergency facilities.

A radio capable of listening in on calls to 120, the number of Beijing Emergency Medical Center, has been

found in the fake ambulance, registration number FJ1491 and ambulance number of 3042, according to an investigation by CCTV.

An official from the center said that two communication systems, are used for Beijing's 120 ambulances. Most ambulances in Beijing use advanced GPS, whilst a small number are still using an 800 MHz Digital Radio System.

The fake ambulance Zhong'ao borrowed from the center one year ago can receive 120 calls.

It is not the first time that the fake ambulance took emergency patients to Zhong'ao before a vehicle arrived on the scene. Records of Zhong'ao on June 18 shows that the fake ambulance took four emergency patients to the hospital in one day. Li Yufeng, a Beijing resident,

said that he was taken to Zhong'ao by the fake ambulance after a car accident this April.

Huang Ying, director of the center publicity department said that they are still investigating the reasons why the fake ambulance could intercept 120 calls. Local authorities now have the problem of trying to find the driver of the fake ambulance.

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Established in Melbourne, Australia since 1992, Bioscor International has a world-wide presence in 12 countries and is a leader in field of cosmetic medicine. Now Bioscor is pleased to offer you its excellent services and the latest in today's innovative aesthetic medical technology at our Bioscor Beijing Clinic.



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Reservoir water pumped into the capital to quench a shortage

By Han Manman

Reservoir water is to be pumped into Beijing's drinking-water source in a desperate bid to tackle the city's severe water shortage.

The water from Baihepu Reservoir, on the outskirts of Beijing, will flow into Beijing's drinking-water source, Miyun Reservoir, to supplement Beijing's water storage, said officials from the Beijing Water Authority (BWA) on Tuesday.

It is the eighth time water has been diverted from an outside source to Beijing since 2003.

After continuous rainfall last month, Baihepu Reservoir has exceeded its capacity. But Beijing's water shortage situation has not got any better. So, Baihepu was once again pouring water, at a rate of 20 to 25 cube meters per second, into Miyun Reservoir from last Friday. The whole process will last 20 days.

"The lack of water in Beijing

is more severe than ever," said Mrs. Zheng, spokeswoman for the Beijing Water Authority. She said that water resource per capita in Beijing is less than 300 cubic meters, representing one eighth of the per capita level of China. "According to international standards, anywhere that has less water per capita than 1000 cubic meters has a severe water shortage," said Mrs. Zheng. "That tells you how serious the situa-

tion in Beijing is."

Under a Beijing Water Resources Sustainability Plan approved by the State Council, and under the coordination of the Ministry of Water Resources' Haihe Committee last year, five reservoirs from Hebei and Shanxi started lifting their sluice gates last year to transfer water to Baihepu Reservoir and Guanting Reservoir in the suburb of Beijing to supplement Beijing's water supply.

Possibility of major earthquake dismissed

By Chu Meng

Experts at the State Seismological Bureau (SSB) have dismissed the possibility of a major earthquake in Beijing and Tianjin in the near future. They also said the tremor on Tuesday did not cause any damage or casualties.

According to Xinhua News Agency, an earthquake measuring 5.1 degrees on the Richter scale jolted a county in north China's Hebei Province at 11:56 a.m. (Beijing Time) Tuesday.

The earthquake was described as "shallow", with its epicenter being about 110 kilometers from Beijing and about 80 kilometers from Tianjin. The quake was clearly felt in the two cities, said Zhang Hongwei, a spokesman for the bureau.

The earthquake shook high-rise buildings in Beijing. Many people at offices felt shaking chairs. Most people on the street did not feel the quake.

Courtyard auction to be held

By Chen Shasha

More than 40 traditional Beijing courtyard homes are to be auctioned off in August.

Some of the dwellings date back to the Qing Dynasty and are protected as cultural relics. Most of the ones for sale are in Dongcheng, Xicheng, Chongwen and Xuanwu districts.

The largest courtyard home to be put up for auction by the Sheng Jia international auction company is more than 6,000 square meters.

The prices of the houses vary according to their age and location. The average price of homes in Dongcheng and Xicheng are 20,000 yuan per square meters, with those in Chongwen and Xuanwu cheaper, at around 8,000 to 15,000 yuan per square meters.

"These prices are estimates because it depends on how bargaining goes at the auction" said Yu Yin who is running the auction.

Work on Olympic venues goes on



Construction on the 'Bird's Nest', one of the 31 major venues for the Beijing Olympic Games, gets underway.

Xinhua Photo

Breast enhancement claims padded and false

By Qiu Jiaoning

An advertisement for a breast-enhancing product called Bolibao has been shown on 17 TV channels over the past four years, yet CCTV Weekly Quality Report findings suggest that the product doesn't work at all.

The advertisement claims that Bolibao, containing pawpaw and kudzu root, can move body fat from a woman's hips and thighs to her breasts and thus make them bigger. Gao Xuemin, of the China Pharmacopoeia Committee, said that pawpaw and kudzu root can't increase breast size; worse, kudzu root can harm a

woman's health if used for an extended period of time.

Despite its dubious claims, the advert has however been a success, and there have been many customers for the Bolibao treatment, which costs about 900 yuan.

CCTV's report says that hundreds of customers have complained that the product isn't as effective as the advertisement claims and has many side effects, including causing acne and internal secretion disorder.

Models in the advertisement, who claimed their breasts had become much bigger after using Bolibao,

were all hired by the company. Their enhanced bustlines were the result of computer-retouched pictures.

The Beijing-based franchisee of Bolibao - Beijing Qiguan Tianxia Technology - said that the company has spent 52 million yuan a month on Bolibao advertisements and earns at least 2.4 million yuan every day from sales of the product.

Beijing Haidian District Administration Industry and Commerce has launched an investigation of Bolibao, promising to publish the results and news of any penalties imposed on the company in the coming week.

Net users map out mugging and pick pocket hotspots

By Han Manman

Citizens determined to cut crime in the capital have published a map of Beijing's mugging and pickpocket hotspots on the Internet.

Following on from a trend started in Shanghai and Hangzhou, net users have posted a 'thief map' (www.sohu.com) to highlight the city's worst crime spots.

The map shows over 10 parts of the city where theft is rampant, most of which are in downtown areas and near transportation facilities. The intersection of Changhong Bridge, at the eastern end of Sanlitun bar street is labeled as the most thief ridden area, while the entrance of Xizhimen Station, the World Trade Center in Guomao, the south street of Dingfuzhuang are also listed as some of the city's worst crime spots.

Free entry to parks and museums

By Jackie Zhang

Twelve parks and six museums in Beijing have scrapped entrance fees and opened their doors to the public for free this month. These parks and museums are all have large grass spaces and are located near residential communities.

Last year, the 12 parks received more than 22.8 million visitors and the six museums welcomed around 1.3 million.

The 12 free parks are:

Zizhuyuan Park, Ritan Park, Honglingjin Park, Tuanjiehu Park, Xuanwu Park, Changxindian Park, Nanyuan Park, Rendinghu Park, Nanguan Park, Wanshou Park, Lidu Park and Bajiao Sculpture Park.

Natural gas for all

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The manufactured gas used by Beijing citizens for about 50 years was used for the last time on Tuesday when the last 80,000 families had natural gas installed in their homes. Beijing therefore became the first all green-source city in China.

Beijing Gas started to replace the old heating facilities with a natural gas system in March. The final phase of the project saw the new pipe network installed in Nanmofang, Songyuli, West Dawang Road and Guangqu Road. Over 1,800,000 families have benefited from the scheme.

Beijing Coking and Chemical Works, the only manufactured gas provider in Beijing, has closed its business in the city and moved to Tangshan in Hebei Province.

Job-hopping costs pilots millions

By Jiang Xubo

A court in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province has ordered eight pilots seeking to resign from China Eastern Airlines' (CEA) Jiangsu branch, to pay a total of over 12 million yuan (US\$1.5 million) for breaching their contracts.

The court supported the pilots' requirement to terminate their labor contracts at costs ranging from some one million yuan (US\$125,000) to over 1.8 million yuan (US\$ 225,000) in compensa-

tion to the airlines, depending on how long they are in service.

One of the pilots, surnamed Meng, was required to pay 1.6 million yuan (US\$200,000). "Personally, I think it is still too much. And I do not know how the figure was worked out," Meng said.

The company initially demanded each pilot pay 2.1 million yuan (US\$263,000) in compensation.

"We have submitted the verdict to the airlines' head office,

but a further decision is still to come," said Yan Guoya, an attorney representing the airlines.

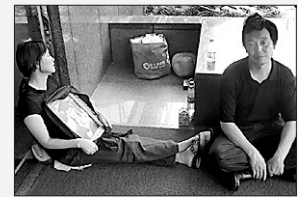
The pilots submitted written resignations last September after a dispute over benefits, but their request was turned down. The airlines sued the pilots last November, and demanded compensation after mediation from the Provincial Working Arbitration Committee failed.

CEA saw a hunger strike in June when it refused to allow the

resignation of six pilots from its Shandong branch.

Joint regulations on pilots issued last May by the General Administration of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Personnel and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security entitle airlines to compensation of up to 2.1 million yuan if pilots' resign.

Civil Aviation Flight University of China, China's top base for pilots, charges some 60,000 yuan (US\$766,000) to train a pilot.



Yan's parents demand answers from the company about their daughter's death.

Death of young woman shows overwork kills

By Han Manman

After a three-day sit-in outside their office, Shokuyu Tanker Co, Ltd Tuesday agreed to compensate the parents of one of its staff, Zhang Yan, who died from apparent overwork. The company has been forced to relocate its office premises after public pressure.

On the afternoon of April 29, 24-year-old office worker Zhang Yan fainted, and was taken to hospital by her coworkers. She died the next day, doctors giving her cause of death as a ruptured spleen.

Her family were naturally shocked. After making funeral arrangements, Zhang Yan's parents and grandmother came to Shanghai to discuss the issue of the young woman's death with her former employer, Shokuyu Tanker. However, company management shut down the office and 'disappeared'.

Yan's father, Zhang Jianfang, said that his daughter had been filling several different posts simultaneously, including personnel and accounting, since joining the company after graduating university last year. Zhang Yan always worked overtime. Despite working at the company for almost a year, Zhang Yan had still not been given a formal labor contract.

An email describing Zhang Yan's case was forwarded amongst Shanghai office workers, and the manner of her tragic death attracted widespread condemnation.

Japan Shokuyu Tanker company finally came forward on Tuesday and promised to compensate the family according to the standards for occupational injury, since a de facto employment relationship was deemed to exist although Zhang Yan never signed a contract. No detailed figure for the amount of compensation was disclosed.

Yan's case came to light just a month after the death of Hu Xinyu, a 25-year-old hardware engineer at leading Chinese telecoms company Huawei, also caught public attention. Hu's death was also attributed to excessive overtime working and other career pressures.

The two cases have led many white-collar workers to think hard and critically about the long hours and constant overtime traditionally demanded of them.

Sentence passed in case of forced hysterectomies

By Han Manman

The first sentence has been passed in the case of two mentally ill girls given a forced hysterectomy, which caused legal and ethical controversy last year. Judgment was handed down Wednesday by Chongchuan court in Nantong city, Jiangsu province.

The former dean Miu Kairong and vice dean Chen Xiaoyuan of Nantong welfare home and two gynecology and obstetrics doctors, Wang Chenyi and Su Yunhua from Cheng Dong hospital who were involved in the operation, were sentenced for committing intentional injury. Chen Xiaoyuan, who arranged the surgery, was sentenced to one year imprisonment with two years suspended. The other three defendants were given six month prison sentences.

Revelations posted online by an anonymous Chengdong hospital doctor last April have thrust the Jiangsu welfare home into the media spotlight. The doctor disclosed that a 13-year-old girl and a 14-year-old girl from Nantong Children Welfare School in Jiangsu had hysterectomy operations because the welfare teachers thought the two seriously mentally ill girls were both unable to take care of themselves during menstruation and to avoid the possibility of their getting pregnant.

Brief News

Fourth largest economy

China produced US\$2.26 trillion in output last year, US\$94 million more than the UK, becoming the world's fourth-largest economy,

according to the World Bank. **Talks on East China Sea issues**

China and Japan will hold the sixth round of talks on the East China Sea issues this weekend, said Jiang Yu, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

Higher minimum wage

The capital raised the minimum monthly wage in the city to 640 yuan (US\$80) from June, up more than 10 percent, according to Beijing Municipal Bureau of Labor and Social Security.

Larger houses

The average per capita dwelling area in downtown Beijing reached some 33 square meters last year, ranking the third across the country, according to the Ministry of Construction. (By Jiang Xubo)



Historic trade route reopens

China and India reopened border trade yesterday through Tibet's Nathu La Pass, a historic trading route that has been closed for 44 years.

Xinhua Photo

Long search seeks homecoming for martyred dead

By Jackie Zhang

Wang Aifu, from Taiyuan in Shanxi Province, has spent the last decade trying to contact relatives of revolutionary martyrs who died in the Battle of Taiyuan during the Chinese Civil War, in 1948.

Wang's search began after he came across a list of the PLA dead from the battle at a second-hand bookstall in 1996. The list included the names of 866 soldiers and basic biographical information. The papers Wang acquired included 84 undelivered death notices. Wang Aifu made it his mission to locate relatives of all these 84 dead.

To date, he has located relatives of 24 of the dead veterans, in provinces including Hunan, Hubei, and his own home of Shanxi.

"I served as a soldier in the 1950s, and one of my comrades died in a battle. I tried to look for his family and wanted to visit

them after I was demobilized but failed," said Wang Aifu, "I think it is my responsibility to find the families of these dead soldiers and take them back home."

Wang had tried various ways to locate the families of the dead over the last 10 years. "At first, I tried to telephone, and wrote letters to the dead soldiers' recorded address. However, so many years have gone by, and lots of the addresses and names of the villages or districts have been changed. I got no reply at all," Wang recalled.

"Then, I started to go to different places myself and investigate. Some local media also reported on my search. That brought me lots of help from the general public. Even many journalists started to help me look for the martyrs' families. University students joined in as well," Wang said.

Zhu Ming is a relative of one

of the dead, now living in Beijing. "When my mother was 12 years old, my grandfather was conscripted then we had no further news of him. My mother did not stop looking for him until the 1990s," Zhu Ming said, "At the end of last year, I saw on TV that Wang Aifu was looking for relatives of war dead. I decided to try my luck and asked Wang for help. He consulted his casualty lists and found that my grandfather's information was in there. When I told my mother the news, she was very excited and it actually made her quite ill. The disappearance of my grandfather had been such a shock for her and had been troubling her all these years. Now, she can find release."

There remain 60 martyrs whose families Wang has not yet been able to contact. "I'll keep going," says a determined Wang Aifu.

Beijing 2008 studies volunteer recruitment

Beijing, July 4 (GamesBids.com) – At the latest executive board meeting of Beijing 2008 organizers (BOCOG), the group studied plans and related policies on recruiting volunteers for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

BOCOG worked out a volunteer recruitment program in line with the Strategic Plan and Action Plan for the Beijing Games, drawing on successful experiences of previous Games.

BOCOG will start worldwide recruitment of volunteers in August.

Organizers want to set up what they call a 'quality volunteers' team to reflect the three Olympic concepts – Green Olympics, High-Tech Olympics and People's Olympics, and the Olympic theme slogan One World One Dream.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included mascot design for the Paralympic Games, torch designs, medals, uniforms and the torch relay logo for the Olympics, as well as the third-round campaign to solicit Olympics songs.



Students celebrate the chance to be volunteers for the Beijing Olympiad.

CFP Photo

Interview with the editor:

So far as I understand, the 'One World, One Dream' slogan represents the universality of the Olympic dream and the singularity of the world stage.

To attract volunteers worldwide, Beijing 2008 needs to sell

its Olympic dream to prospective recruits. I've been told by volunteers from past Games that this was a dream opportunity for them – that they enjoyed meeting athletes and visitors from so many other countries

and experiencing working in a totally different country – and they were thrilled to be part of the Olympics.

– Rob Livingstone,
Producer,
GamesBids.com

Beijing penalizes dog owners to curb rabies



Beijingers have a long tradition of raising pets, but more needed is responsibility.

AFP Photo

Beijing, July 2 (PTI) – Faced with a threat of rapid spread of rabies due to the rising number of pet dogs here, Beijing police warned owners of harsh punishment if they were found violating regulations on keeping pets.

People who raise dogs without a permit would be either fined US\$625 or face the threat of having the animal confiscated, Tang Yunli of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau said.

The penalty would also apply if owners fail to get annual health check-ups for their pets, keep big dogs in downtown areas, have more than one dog in a family, or take their pets to the wrong places or out at the wrong times, Tang said.

He said police began a two-week-long inspection yesterday on pet dogs in the city.

Annual registration between May 1 and June 30 showed that Beijing has a record 534,520 pet

dogs, 75,747 more than at the same period of last year.

Police dealt with 4,891 cases involving illegally keeping dogs during the period, Tang said.

Officers are also working to spread information about rabies in order to improve public awareness of the fatal disease.

Beijing has seen a gradual increase in cases of rabies in recent years, largely due to an increase in domestic pets.

Interview with the reporter:

People should be ready, materially and psychologically, before adopting any pet. They need your care, space, and money to feed and care. You can't get rid of it whenever you are fed up with them.

You must have love to take care of them, responsibility to sup-

port and help them, and citizenship to keep your city clean and safe once you adopt your pet.

Our community should remind people of these moral obligations. They should also provide some space for people and their pets to walk and relax.

Our city government should use their enhanced financial resources to promote the development of animal clinics where these pets can be neutered, and shelters for the abandoned pets.

– Anil K. Joseph,
PTI Beijing

'No companies in residential buildings'

Beijing, July 3 (news.yahoo.com) – Beijing has banned businesses from setting up offices in residential buildings, a move that will have a deep impact on the property market.

The municipal government said that, effective immediately, no new companies will be granted business licenses if they plan to establish offices in residential buildings.

But the policy allows companies already in residential buildings to remain.

Beijing Daily quoted property analysts as saying the move will eventually force small and medium companies to move to

lower-end office buildings. This will likely cause price increases for office space and reduce demand and prices for residential buildings.

Industry sources estimate that one third of private businesses registered in Beijing were operating in residential buildings.

Residential buildings have in recent years become more and more popular with small companies because they are cheaper than office space to rent.

Beijing authorities, however, have faced increasing complaints from residents, who are annoyed by the noise and large number of people around their homes. Res-



Ads for houses are everywhere in the new residential communities in Beijing.

Photo by sina.com

idents also complain that company offices in their building make them less secure and cause excessive wear and tear on facilities such as lifts.

Interview with the editor:

Everyone should keep in mind that we are living in communities and societies. You must respect the others if you want to receive dignity and respect from them.

China is populous and people have to do their best to make a better living with low costs.

The only way out, I believe, is to build more buildings, for residence, for business, for public use, to meet the demands and cut office renting prices.

– Ryan Logtenberg, chief
editor, www.gnn.com

Navstar to provide content to City TV in Beijing

Beijing, July 8 (www.syscon.com/marketwire) – Navstar Media Holdings, Inc. (Navstar) announced that it has begun to provide content to the largest out-of-home digital TV media group in Beijing.

Navstar's subsidiary, Happy Times, has signed a contract to offer two daily programs to BAMC City TV Co. (City TV) in Beijing.

City TV has over 5,000 digital TV panels installed in office buildings, hotels, stores and other commercial locations. City TV has the only license to offer non-commercial content to the out-of-home TV media. They transmit media content through DVB-T digital TV network systems which can instantly update and change the content offerings.

City TV is also the only out-of-home TV media licensed by the Beijing Olympic Committee to offer Olympic-related content and is expected to install approximately 20,000 public display TV panels by 2008.

Navstar is one of the only three content providers to receive a contract from City TV. This marks an important step in Navstar's strategy of breaking into new media fields.

Steve Sun, Navstar Senior Vice President, stated, "This broadens our customer base and attests to our ability to create and provide content for new media and expand our operations. It is only the first step in our aggressive strategy of growth."

Olympic sculptures go on tour

Beijing, July 5 (www.noticias.info) – After a ten-day show in Beijing, the 290 pieces of landscape sculptures designed for the 2008 Olympic Games will continue to appear in neighboring city of Tianjin.

The exhibition in Tianjin, a co-host city of the 29th Olympiad, is to open on July 8, and following their stay there, the art works will continue their journey in Xiamen, Zhengzhou, Changchun, Taiyuan, Shijiazhuang, Ningbo, Nanning, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macao, according to Yuan Xikun, organizer of the sculpture contest.

The works were selected from hundreds of contributions in the design campaign started in 2005. Experts' judgment plus public voting will result in the most excellent sculptures to be used in landscape schemes for the Olympic Games.

Experiencing the *Gothenburg*

By Alice Jian

Taking a place on the 'reborn' the Gothenburg brings a journey full of hard work, pride and surprise. As a novice, you never know what to expect. The following is my experience in my first week as a new sailor.

Up a mast in darkness

June 28, sunny

The *Gothenburg* gave me a surprise on my first day on duty.

All us sailors got serial numbers when we embarked. I was number 15 and belonged to the left cabin group. We were second mates and oversaw what was going on.

I climbed up the mast during the training courses several days ago, with no difficulties at all. But it never occurred to me that I would have to do my work in complete darkness. Our group leader told us a veteran sailor should be able to get the job done even with her eyes closed. But actually most of us were just novices.

I was put on duty to do fire check in the first hour and as 'look out' on the prow in the second, and then steered in the last two hours.

Fire precaution was top priority. Well, the ship is made of wood! For me, it was a good chance to take a good look at those 'No Admittance' places like the engine room, the pilot house and the desalination plant.

'Look out' may be the most welcomed task on board. Getting out of the sultry cabin beneath the deck, standing in breeze on the deck and resting my eyes on the sea horizon in the distance, I felt I was in heaven.

I spent the last two hours steering, just like a captain from a novel. The ship is piloted using two co-axial wooden wheels with a screen in the pillar standing in front of the wheel, showing the ship's direction. We had to turn the wheel and keep a hand on the screen close to the number the second mate had told us.

Raising the mainsails

June 29, mostly cloudy but stormy at noon

At 7:20am the sailors on last shift broke into our cabin for morning call. I was awakened with a start in my hammock which nearly pasted me to the ceiling. When I stepped on the deck a gust of cool breeze greeted me and puffed away all the annoying heat.

The wind turned westerly, just the one in which we could raise the sails. Below the beautiful blue sky, two triangle jibs had already risen up with the wind. Our group leader, also the boatswain, explained to us the functions of the controlling ropes for each sail, and required us to practice shouting slogans when drawing ropes. The sails were extraordinarily heavy. Only if everybody listened to the order and coordinated could we raise the sails quickly and correctly. Many terms he used did not make sense to us. But thanks to his painstaking explanation, we endeavored to keep them in mind.



Drawing ropes

Photos provided by Alice Jian



Equator baptism

We had to raise the mainsail as soon as possible so that we could turn off the engine and go with the wind – real sailing. There were too many ropes, sometimes we had to be divided into two groups and pull at the same time. There were three old people in the group, and the girls were mostly around 20, but nobody shirked.

At 10am sharp, all four sails had been raised and five minutes later



Raising the mainsails

the second mate ordered us to turn off the engine. Now the *Gothenburg* was finally drifting through the blue South Pacific by wind power alone.

My leader asked me to climb and to help withdraw a sail. Climbing the mast was much more fun than pulling ropes for me, because I could not only learn skills but also enjoy a good view of the sea.

"Look, dolphins!" a teammate cried out suddenly. I looked, and saw four dolphins swimming ahead



Learning to sew

of the boat, just like tour guides. Standing on the mast, you could see so much which was beyond view when on deck. Maybe it was sort of a reward for the sailors who

worked hardest.

The equator baptism

July 1, sunny

At 11:29:20am, the *Gothenburg* slid across the equator, entering the northern hemisphere.

A teammate, wearing a rope-made wig, whisked towards us from the foredeck with his body wrapped in a fishing net yesterday afternoon. He ran to the captain, smelled him, and then knelt down on one knee. "I am an envoy from the god of the sea. I smelled the smell of newcomers. They will have to receive their baptism tomorrow when they go across the equator," he said.

Equator baptism was a tradition in Europe, all the sailors who cross the line must receive it. It was said some new sailors drowned when their heads were forced into pools. But it was just a game for fun on the *Gothenburg*.

One o'clock sharp, we were driven to the quarterdeck. The sea god envoy showed up again and ordered us to get down on knees, with heads and bodies touching the deck. The people holding the ceremony were presented to us in turn. First the god of the sea, then his wife, a 'prince', a 'general boatswain' and a 'doctor'. We were required to kowtow after every presentation.

Then we were herded to a cabin on the second floor, waiting for their call one by one.

I was the last but one. The 'general boatswain', with a name list in hand, said all the sailors to cross the equator got a fish name. He said mine, a word with at least 10 syllables. Then I was ordered to climb to the foredeck on my buttocks. Which was a surprise.

I was told to kiss the god's wife on the foot when I got there. The 'goddess' plastered her left foot with something like chocolate cream. I kissed it slightly, with my eyes closed. Then the 'prince' told me to take a look at islands in the distance. "You can't see them, can you? Try this telescope," she said, pressing a cardboard cylinder smeared with tar on my left eye, leaving a dark circle there.

But that was not the worst. The 'doctors' in gowns and masks examined me with paper scissors and



Captain Peter (right) at the equator baptism

knives. "You have no heart. You need to take some medicine," they grumbled. They poked a spoon into my mouth, I dodged but failed. Eventually I took a little bit of it, and they finally let me go.

Our vice boatswain practiced no favoritism on me at all. She came up, lifted my shirt quickly and smeared my belly with puke-like things. My scream did not stop her from smearing my back. Then I was dragged into a terrible pool. It was said there were dead fish and rotting shrimps in it. And ink fish!

But they did not force my head into the water, as they saw I was about to cry.

Caught in a storm

July 4, mostly cloudy

Some people complained a couple of days ago that it had been so calm and maybe we wouldn't come across the storms we had experienced in Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean. An unforeseen thunderstorm was coming down at noon and brought us another chance to fight.

The sun did not show up the whole morning, and wind was turning stronger at noon. The rain was falling heavily meanwhile. It was lunchtime, everybody was enjoying delicious smoked salmon except those on duty. Suddenly we heard the first mate, asking all of us to gather on deck immediately. We had to withdraw all the sails as soon as possible because the accelerating gale might blow the sails and drive the ship out of control!

We rushed to the barrels for raincoats and ran onto the deck. Some people had already been drawing the ropes under the directions from the boatswain. I joined my group immediately. The daily training showed its power now. Three boatswains were giving orders to their groups at the same time. A bind of orders from boatswains and shouting from sailors dotted the roaring thunder.

It was the first storm since we set off from the last harbor. All the officers were monitoring the data showed on the instruments and then giving orders to the boatswains, who were running back and forth in the storm, adjusting sails and masts and directing sailors. Many sailors had no raincoats and got all wet. I put on my raincoat in a hurry, but it had no cap. The rain poured along my lapel and I got wet within minutes.

The heavy rain nearly blocked our sight but we couldn't move our hands from the ropes to wipe our eyes. And the rain blew gales into our backs. It was overwhelming, we could hardly turn our heads. The wet sails and ropes got heavier than ever before and some groups could hardly work. Finally it was hard to identify one group from another. Struggling together in the storm, I was deeply touched by the feeling of being 'in the same boat' with those lusty Swedish sailors.

Twenty minutes later, all the sails were withdrawn. We could not help cheering in the storm, and a couple even fell into a hot kiss.

(Translated by Jiang Xubo)

NASA hails Discovery launch as success

"NASA managers celebrated the success of the nation's first Fourth of July manned shuttle launch, saying they were not worried about a small piece of foam that broke off and hit the Discovery during its ascent," Mike Schneider, Associated Press reports.

Discovery blasted off from its seaside Florida launch pad Tuesday at 2:38 pm EDT.

Steven Lindsey, an Air Force fighter pilot, was at Discovery's controls and aiming for a Thursday linkup with the international space station.

"I can't think of a better place to be here on the Fourth of July," radioed Lindsey."

(Associated Press)

Comments

Won't NASA take better precautions for the shuttle before it goes up and while it is up? Too bad we probably won't ever make a space station that could be a little like the one in Moonraker with all the shuttles going up and docking.

— Snowdogsdaemon

Manned space flight is a classic circle-jerk! The shuttle exists to service the space station. And the space station exists to serve as a jumping off point for future expe-

ditions, right? Jump off to where? Mars? Why?

This is all crap!

— emqjds

If the fuel tanks were built by the Japanese, there wouldn't be any need for concern.

— enufofthissh

NASA sends billions of tax dollars into space, and for what?

— mean wooooo gene9

I think I held my breath for two minutes during the launch, but it was MAGNIFICENT! What an awesome sight!!! What an awesome sound!

What could be better than a successful launch on the Fourth of July! For a few moments we could forget about other stories and focus on the Space Program, American Ingenuity and the eighth wonder of the world.

USA is still number one!

— nowitrytobeamused

Remember Bush hates science except when it enriches defense and oil industry backers.

— lee js

Only politicians will be saved when the end finally comes...do



any of you space clowns really think that the government will find a place aboard a spacecraft to send you to safety somewhere?

— lakeside jake

A tremendous waste of money while medical research down here continues to go begging.

— cap january

They can say it's a success when it lands...

— nukes over mecca

The technology is outdated, the vehicle has killed two crews, and they're sending it up in the hope that it doesn't screw up again. We taxpayers need to start paying

close attention...and we need a new launch vehicle.

— quickiewle

Bad idea to launch it on July 4. Thank God it took off without any major incident but what if it had? Then the Fourth of July would get permanently marred by this. The folks at NASA should have thought about the consequences.

— tsar bomba

America has spent billions on space exploration. We're making the same mistakes that the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans made. Spending money on exploiting ideas and daring to be great. This is terrible. Think of the poor

people we could have helped.

— sanchoquan

Bush using this as an aversion for the diplomatic quagmires we are facing!

— fdsakjfdslkajfdslka

It's obvious a disaster is brewing up there. The shuttle is fundamentally dangerous. They have had a problem with the foam and they have not solved it. Now they have decided to "play the odds" and "get on with it."

Not reassuring when you are playing the odds with people's lives. And for what, exactly? There is NOTHING up there.

— longhaired freaky person

Weekly topics

Newsweek (US)

1. Tibet train: pride and controversy
2. Global warming, a lost cause?
3. Zakaria responds to readers' questions
4. Bush's cautious response to N. Korea
5. Reader forum: your questions on urban life answered

New York Times (US)

1. CIA closes unit focused on capture of bin Laden
2. Bush signals shift on immigration
3. A new partnership binds old Republican rivals
4. 6 Missiles fired by North Korea; tests protested
5. A blog mogul turns bearish on blogs

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

1. Police quiz suspected conwoman
2. Former Enron chief Ken Lay dead
3. Breast ironing: grim secret of Africa's women
4. Beauty contest selection row turns beastly
5. France join Italy in final

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Thieves drain, remove swimming pool
2. Tourists dodge parking fines
3. Three charged for trying to sell Coke secrets to Pepsi
4. Western boom lifts national house prices
5. Italian soccer pride overflows

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Britons see US as vulgar empire builder
2. Fans despair after Rooney's dismissal
3. Gaza families count the cost of Israeli siege
4. Earth set for near miss with asteroid
5. We can't cope with immigration on this scale

Study: Using cellphone in car like driving drunk

By Michael Winter

Hang up and drive.

That's the gist of a new study that confirms earlier findings that motorists who talk on cellphones — be they handheld or hands-free — are just as impaired as drunken drivers. Utah researchers reported their results Thursday, three years after initial studies reached the same conclusion.

"We found that people are as impaired when they drive and talk on a cellphone as they are when they drive intoxicated at the legal blood-alcohol limit of 0.08 percent," said study co-author Frank Drews, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Utah.

The study, published in Human Factors, also found that compared with undistracted drivers, motorists who talked on either handheld or hands-free cellphones:

1. Drove slightly slower.
2. Were nine percent slower to hit the brakes and 19 percent slower to resume normal speed after braking.
3. Displayed 24 percent more variation in following distance as their attention shifted between driving and talking.
4. Were more likely to crash.

(USA Today)

Comments

It doesn't take lengthy reports to get the concept. Two hands on the wheel, mind and eyes on the road. If you can't do that, don't drive.

— Volum

I know I am being extreme, but both SUVs in the left lane and speaking on the cell phone while driving should be outlawed. Let's not mention kids sending text messages while driving...

— Thomas

I use the phone when I drive, and frankly I find it addictive. Forget everyone else's behavior, examine your own first. I won't talk on my phone tonight on the way home. Turning it off will be therapeutic.

— TBone

Perhaps insurance companies could offer a discount for those that don't drive and talk. Basically, rather than legislating cell phone usage, take a business approach. Fiscally reward those that don't, as a rule, use the phone while driving.

— Drew Crecente

If you have to make a phone call, why can't you just pull over? It seems like a no-brainer to me. But the people with cell phones

consider themselves 'on-the-go' type of people with no time to stop. Consequently, one hand on the wheel, one hand on the phone, one brain working in two directions. Great Idea. Absolute worst drivers on the road anyway. If you drive a stick, how the hell can you shift, hang onto the wheel, and talk on the phone at the same time? Can't be done folks, can't be done.

— Carlo Martina

The point is: where do you draw the line? No eating or drinking in cars? Accidents happen because of eating and drinking in the car...

Mandates don't change behavior. Find a better way than legislation.

— M

So how many people have died due to cell phone conversations? Has anyone documented the number of traffic fatalities due to talking on a cell phone? And what about traffic accidents in general? Where are the statistics to back up that this is actually causing problems?

— Brian B

There should be a system in the car that DISABLES the damn cellphone use — you know, a frequency blocker type of thing! Driving is a privi-

lege and requires your complete attention.

— A Frustrated and Concerned Driver

The problem is the cars and roads, they can easily allow you to go 100 mph. They quickly lose concentration. There is no resolution, outlawing phones is just a drop in the bucket.

— Bud

As a cyclist and a motorcyclist, I beg the lawmakers to look at the studies, the life they save might be mine, yours, your mother, son, daughter, you get my drift.

— Katfarm

I doubt the research results. First, it has a very small sample group. The scenario of the experiment also sounds very limited. Human factors such as personal characters are not put into consideration either. There is not even a comparison with the situation in which the driver talks with other people in the car.

— Wei Lu

I live in North Carolina, and I know of at least 10 fatal accidents due to cell phone usage. Actually most of them were high school students.

— old pirate
(By Jiang Xubo)



A specially designed bicycle on show

Italy-China Week good news for the environment

By Annie Wei

An eco-friendly Italian-Chinese Pavilion was inaugurated in Tsinghua University Monday. This marked the opening of Italy-China Cooperation Week for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

The cooperation, which began in 2000, has seen the development of 52 projects in many environment-related fields, including the monitoring and management of the environment, the protection and conservation of natural resources, water resources management, the development of renewable and energy efficiency, sustainable urban planning and the forestry management.

The Italian Ministry of Environmental Protection carries out these projects with China's authorities like the State Environmental Protection Administration, State Forestry Administration, and cities like Beijing and Shanghai, as well as top universities.

During the week, the results of the cooperation were present in seven seminars with specific themes and three exhibitions.

Highlights included 'Energy Security for China and the Global



An energy saving motorcycle at Tsinghua University

IC Photos

Climate', 25 projects undergoing for the development of clean energy in China; 'Sustainable Agriculture', a project focused on China's food security; the largest water project 'Evaluation of the Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact of the Diversion

of the Waters of the Blue River to the Yellow River'; and 'Green Olympics Beijing 2008'.

The 'Green Olympics' shows an active cooperation between the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory and the Municipality of Beijing to discuss

air quality control equipment, environment quality control lab at the Olympic sites and for the vehicle emissions.

The project will also include a seminar on sustainable agriculture and management training to further sustainable development.

Canadian National Day: more maple than you could shake a tree at

By Jackie Zhang

The Sino Bright School of Beijing No. 25 School was the place to be last weekend, at least if you're a Canadian. The Canada China Business Council (CCBC) organized the annual Canada Day event to celebrate the founding of Canada on July 1st, 1867.

There were more than 1,000 people, Chinese and foreigners, participating in the celebrations and more than 10 companies providing media sponsorship.

"We make sure there are lots for people to take part in," said Rosalie Gao, Beijing Chapter manager of CCBC, "Today a lot of Canadian friends have come to the celebration and brought their Chinese friends as well. The event is actually a celebration for both Chinese and foreigners, enjoying Canadian National Day."

If your idea of celebrating is a chili eating contest, a watermelon eating contest, a sticky apple contest and a basketball tournament then Canada – and indigestion – beckon. Party goes soon got into the swing of things.

"We do the chili and watermelon eating every year," said Bill Zhu, Beijing Chapter officer of CCBC, "I created the sticky apple contest this year. It is popular with different people whether they are old or young, men or women."

As if that wasn't enough, a live band got toes tapping while all noses were tweaked in the direction of the barbecue.

"I think today's activity is very nice," said Robert G. Wright, Canadian ambassador, "We are celebrating Canada National Day everywhere in the world today. It is a celebration for a mixture of people and gives people opportunities to experience and know more about Canada."

Canada Day is a national holiday in Canada. Each year Canadians in every Canadian city and around the world, celebrations take place to honor the founding of the country.

The very first large celebrations in Beijing for Canada Day began in 1998. It is an opportunity for the Canadian community to have fun with their family and friends.

Previously, Canada Day was held at the Canadian Embassy but with the popularity and success of the event, the crowds quickly outgrew the venue and Canada Day has now become one of the largest and most recognized expatriate events in Beijing.

AC Milan to launch summer camp for youth in Beijing



Franco Baresi

Photo by Shi Jing

By Qiu Jiaoning

Franco Baresi, ex-captain of AC Milan and now coach of their youth team, came to Beijing to

launch Milan Junior Camp (MJC) on Thursday.

MJC is the youth's summer vacation camp, organized by AC Milan and carried out by Beijing Shiji Lanxiang Sports Agency Co. Ltd. The camp will be held from August 7 to 19 in Beijing Crab Island Bio-Green Holiday Village, five-kilometers from Beijing Capital International Airport.

MJC, dedicated to providing the highest level of professional youth football instruction, is

open to youngsters from 12 to 18 years of age and is staffed by highly qualified coaches. "The two weeks in MJC will be full of training exercises, but also fun," said Baresi at the press conference. Excellent kids or teens will be invited by AC Milan headquarters to Milan mid September.

In 2006, AC Milan will launch MJC in more than 40 countries. It is estimated that some 10,000 children will take part in the camps.

Affiliated with the top professional football programs in the world, AC Milan will also set up a fan club in China. Baresi will attend the opening ceremony of the club and meet fans of AC Milan on Thursday.

Franco Baresi is one of very few players at top international level to have spent an entire career at one club, AC Milan, for whom he played 444 games, scoring 12 goals. He is regarded as one of the finest sweepers in history.



Sings the national anthem with Uncle Sam Photo by Xiaoyuan

Happy birthday Uncle Sam

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Over 400 people enjoyed the 'Red, White and BBQ' party to celebrate American Independence Day organized by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham-China) on July 2nd at Novotel Oasis Beijing.

The party started at 3pm with a welcome message given by Emory Williams, the chairman of AmCham-China.

Thirty-five companies sponsored the event, including McDonald's and Air Canada. Uncle Sam strutted around self importantly on the pretext of raising donations for charity.

US 'kungfu-siasts' make pilgrimage to Shaolin Temple

By Jackie Zhang

More than 500 kungfu disciples from 10 states in the USA made a pilgrimage to the Shaolin Temple in Dengfeng, Henan Province Tuesday. They reached Beijing today.

These American disciples are members of the Shaolin Boxing Self-defense Union in the United States, which is the biggest martial arts organization in the country. It was established by Stephen Demasco in 1992. The pilgrims included old men and small children.

"They visited the temple, learned martial arts and learned about how we live and exercise everyday in the temple," said the temple monks. "They stayed here for three days and were divided into several classes learning kungfu."



Everybody was Kungfu fighting

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

The head of the Shaolin Boxing Self-defense Union, Stephen Demasco, gave the Shaolin Temple all the income the union got from publish-

ing books about the Shaolin Temple. And Shi Yongxin, the abbot of the Shaolin Temple, gave the union two Buddha statues.

Beijing kid to be mascot in World Cup final

By Chen Shasha

Making it to the World Cup finals takes a little bit of luck, and Xing Zichen, a nine-year-old kid from Beijing, has plenty of the stuff.

Chosen from 2,000 kids from all over China, Xing, together with three other boys from Shanghai, Guangzhou and

Chongqing, will walk into the World Cup stadium, hand in hand, with the world's best players on July 9.

"I should always remember two sentences, one is to ask the soccer player if I can have a photo with him, another is to ask for an autograph," said Xing. When the news of his

selection as a mascot spread, a lot of his schoolmates came to ask him to bring autographs for them. "Some of them drew pictures of their favorite players and asked me to take them to Germany," said Xing. After selection, Xing and the other three mascots went to Shanghai to take courses in English, et-

quette and football.

The program, called the World Cup Player Escort Program, is sponsored by McDonald's. More than 1,000 children from around the world will escort the players in the FIFA World Cup games. It is the first time that Chinese kids have been selected for the program.



Beijing goes mad for World Cup face painting

By Chen Shasha

Hundreds of people took part in the face painting competition by Beijing Youth Daily during the world cup. On July 6, a selection of face painting pictures came to an end and all the pictures on ynet.com will open for public voting until July 10.

Li Yan, a student of Beijing Institute of Clothing Technology decided to take part when he heard about it from his friend. "I majored in clothing designing and it seemed an interesting art practice. Besides, I'm a football fan," he said. During the month, he went to different bars to find people who were willing to be painted. One of his works, named 'Fan princess', was daubed on a female fan of the German team. Li painted a German flag in the style of a fan on her face, with colorful clouds. "It expressed good will to the German team through the power of the fan," said Li.

Photo number eight, which has received 10,060 votes on the Internet to date, is leading the pack. Zhao Chen, the artist, favored England, Brazil and Germany, especially Germany. He painted the three countries' flags on the model's face, with the one of Germany on the nose. "With the German flag on the peak part of the face, I hoped the team would win," he said.

Chengdu cracks down on illegal football betting

By Jiang Xubo

Local police in Chengdu, capital of southwest Chongqing Province, this week announced a crack down on a website which took one billion yuan (US\$125 million) through illegal football betting and arrested over 20 suspects.

The website, www.jl788.com, fixes odds and bets on football games with nationwide gamblers who venture their wagers by putting money into the company's bank account. Over 2,000 gamblers, mainly from coastal cities like Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Shanghai, registered on the website.

Gong Jianping, the principal offender from Sichuan Province, set up the website in Hong Kong last July and employed people to sustain it in Chengdu.

The investigation continues.



Vive la stereotypes nationale!

French football fans get excited about being French on July 6.

Photo by Happy Hu

World Cup blog racks up 10 million hits

By Xue Meng

Chinese football fans are showing their World Cup spirit in many ways. Logging onto Donglu's blog is one. Donglu, the famous Chinese football reporter, commentator, and the host of many football programs, registered his 10 millionth hit at noon June 16, becoming the ninth blogger to rack up 10 million hits in the blog channel of the sina website.

The 36-year-old Dong expresses his passion for football on his blog by presenting a podcast every other day with a multi-colored Afro wig and a fake moustache. Caricatures, parodies, reviews and music have been entertaining the crazy fans. "We do it for fun, out of passion for football," says Dong, "The

World Cup is a great event for everyone whether they are from small countries or large ones; rich or poor."

Dong started his blog last November to share his opinions on life, music and his passion for football. The start of the World Cup has brought him huge success. Of the 10 million hits, Dong says, "It's not a miracle, but rather perseverance." The blog attracts fans by presenting fresh content every day.

Dong, who has worked in journalism for many years, also believes the reason for his website's success may be because it allows people to talk freely. He says, "There is a relative freedom for sports reporters to express their opinions and feelings. However, in other fields such as social and political areas, there are regulations."

Chinese paper-cuttings record World Cup

By Jackie Zhang

The 63-year-old Yao Fengwen is a Chinese paper-cut fan. She creates paper-cut works about the World Cup although she knows little about football.

Yao likes to watch TV and do paper-cutting in her spare time. She was not interested in sports before. She started to watch World Cup games because she was curious about the game which makes so many people excited.

"I don't know which team is which, but feel the game is interesting. Everyone is running on the ground. The match looks exciting and makes people nervous," said

Yao. While she was watching the matches, she found the players' physiques very impressive. "They must have practiced very hard," she said.

Then, the idea of making paper-cuttings about football came to her. Every time she was watching football matches, she would draw the players' hair styles, postures, and strips. Her daughter also helped her looking up players' information online.

Yao's first paper-cut work is about the 2006 World Cup symbol and the different players. Now, she is designing her second work focusing on the World Cup mascot.

Legal program launched between Australia and China

By Annie Wei

The attorney general of Australia, Philip Ruddock has brought a group of Australian lawyers to visit China this week. These legal representatives come from big law firms in Australia, including the Law Council of Australia, the International Legal Services Advisory Council (ILSAC), and the Australian Attorney-General's Department.

The visit aims to foster understanding of the legal systems between the two countries, and boost legal co-operation between the two countries.

Ruddock mentioned that the two countries had an agreement on criminal repatriation, and a memorandum that they will work on cross-country crises, such as allowing Australian judges to obtain

evidence in China.

During the visit with All China Lawyers Association and law schools, Ruddock said that both sides understood the importance of legal education. Therefore, a project that helps lawyers from both countries learn more about each other has been launched.

Under the project, four Chinese lawyers will have a 23-week internship in law

firms in Australia to learn regulations and policy development in fields of law of interest to China.

"There are growing community partnerships between our two countries," Ruddock said, "the continuing relationship between my department and the Ministry of Justice is reinforcing institutional links between our legal professions."

Romanian sculptors for the Olympics and for peace

By Chen Shasha

Beijing is currently playing host to a renowned Romanian sculptor with a message of peace and a proposal for a monumental sculpture in the Olympic Stadium named Symphony for Peace – One World, One Dream. The sculptor, Mircea Paul Goreniciu, has also been sharing pictures from his 40 year career, including those of pieces he designed for the 2008 Olympics. The exhibition was held at the Romanian embassy on July 3.

The exhibition, called 'From Root-Carving to Monumental Sculpture 1966 -2006', features 43 pictures from his life long dedication to art.

The general theme was one of harmony, exemplified by Goreniciu's proposed Olympic monument. With the earth in the center, the sculpture represents the prayer of all the mothers around the world for peace.

This was Mircea's third visit to China. He hopes his proposed sculpture will be chosen to represent the Olympics. One of his works, 'Space Dance for Peace V', has already been put in Beijing Olympic Park to welcome the games.



A teacher from Urasenke

Photo by Han Manman

Japanese sell tea culture to China

By Han Manman

A Japanese tea gathering organized by the Japanese embassy to promote tea culture was held Tuesday in the Ceremony and Flower Arrangement Room of Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center.

Members from Urasenke, the largest tea ceremony group in Japan, presented a lively introduction to tea practice with an authentic tea gathering. The gathering

included a discussion of the history and philosophy of the Japanese 'Way of Tea', and participants learned how to receive the tea and how to make and serve the *macha*, a powdered green tea.

Miyazaki Izumi from Urasenke said that the tea ceremony, or *chanoyu*, is an aesthetic pastime unique to Japan that features the serving and drinking of *macha*. The practice of holding

social gatherings to drink *macha* spread among the upper class from about the 14th century.

As an aesthetic pursuit, the tea ceremony also involves the appreciation of the room in which it is held. The small but garden like room, the utensils used in serving the tea, and the decor of the setting, such as a hanging scroll or a flower arrangement also plays a part in the tea culture.

A-share open to multinational investment

By Wang Xiaoyuan

From July 1 multinationals were allowed to invest in the A-share market through their investment subsidiaries in China, according to the Ministry of Commerce. "The move is seen as a sign China is loosening control of its capital market", said an AmCham member.

This was one of the topics discussed during a special dialogue between Shang Fulin, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) and Ameri-

can Chamber of Commerce, China (AmCham-China) last week at Capital Club.

It focused on capital market development in China. Shang talked about his experience in China's central bank and commercial bank for many years before presiding over CSRC. He also described how China solved Y2K problems in the banking industry in 2000.

Late last year, CSRC promulgated rules on foreign investors' strategic investments in companies listed in the Chinese stock markets.

New Zealand Film Festival kicks off in Beijing

By Han Manman

The third New Zealand Film Festival will be kicked off today in Beijing. After touring Shanghai and Guangzhou, the Beijing tour will last until Monday. Twelve films will be shown in Beijing, including *River Queen*, winner of Best Music at the 'Golden Goblets' last month.

The 12 films include five features including *The World's Fastest Indian* which is about an old New Zealand motorcycle racer who sets the land-speed world record and *In My Father's Den* that tells of a battle weary war photographer and his 16-year-old daughter.

River Queen, directed by Vincent Ward and starring Samantha Morton, is an intimate story set during the 1860s, in which a young Irish woman, Sarah, and her family find themselves on both sides of the turbulent wars between British and Maori during the British colonization of this island country.

The festival, organized by the Chinese State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) and New Zealand Film Commission, is held in the wake of four successful Chinese Film Festivals in New Zealand since 1998.

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Gongtixi Lu Beijing, PRC
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Opening times 10am-Late

Lady golfers help in the battle against breast cancer

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A group of kind-hearted lady golfers have helped the battle against breast cancer by donating over 150,000 yuan (around US\$18,500) to a Beijing hospital.

Members of the Beijing Ladies' Golf Group (BLG) donated the cash to the Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMC) on Tuesday. All the money will be used for breast cancer patients' care and on research and operations.

The golfers raised 80,000 yuan at the Pink Ribbon Golf Tournament last month. Members added a further 72,500 yuan themselves.

At the simple donation ceremony, Anna Janssen, chairwoman of BLG and Shane Sullivan, treasurer of BLG committee, presented the check to hospital boss Dr Ma Enling.

"This is a fantastically gener-



Pink power! All Pink Ribbon Tournament players at Beijing Country Golf Club
Photo provided by BLG

ous donation," he said. "It's not the first time we have been given a donation but it's the first time we have been given money especially for patient care. Organizations and companies give us

money but don't care how we use it. BLG is not a company. The donation is symbolic of the love and care between people."

Twenty to 30 percent of the money will be used on research

in two fields – minor operations to improve the outcome of breast cancer treatment and plastic surgery for women whose breasts have been removed as a result of cancer. Dr Ma will update the BLG on patients' situation and any research advances on an annual basis.

BLG first came up with the idea of raising money for the hospital in October last year. "The nine months we have spent working on this has been like having a baby but it was worth all it – this was a labor of love," said Janssen. BLG hope to continue fundraising for the hospital.

PUMC is developing an English language website to document breast cancer patients' situations and to encourage a wider discussion of the disease. "We want to get more people to get involved in charity activities and fundraising, especially for hospitals", said Dr Ma.

Inspectors: Beijing ready to host championships

By Annie Wei / Chu Meng

International inspectors say they are confident that Beijing will be able to host a successful World Junior Championships after a tour of the city last week.

The 11th Championships – which will kick off on August 15th and are expected to bring close to 2,000 athletes to the city – are seen as a litmus test of Beijing's abilities to stage a major sporting event two years ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games.

Officials from the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), who visited stadiums and checked out the transport system and other facilities, claimed the city had made great progress since last year and was now ready to stage the event next month.

"Everything is well-planned," said Anna Lengani, the IAAF's deputy director of communications. "We inspected everything, including transportation, traffic, posters and facilities in the stadium."

Lengani said that compared to her first visit to Beijing last October, things had improved amazingly.

Over 1,587 athletes from 178 countries have so far signed up for the Championships with many more expected to take part when the competition kicks off in just over four weeks.

"This is the most important world-class event two years ahead of the Olympics in Beijing," said Gianni Merlo, president of the International Sports Press Association.

The Championships will be held in Chaoyang Park and at the Chaoyang Gymnasium between August 15 and August 20.

Famous chefs provide an unforgettable French night

By Chu Meng

Two top chefs from the world famous cooking school 'Le Cordon Bleu Paris' will serve up a feast of culinary delights tonight at a party to promote French food.

Two-star Michelin Chefs, Bernard Guilhaudin and Pierre Wolf, will host the Gastronomic Michelin Delights Night Party at the Kunlun Hotel.

There will be a standing buffet of 20 dishes prepared by the master chefs including cheeses and meats. There will also be a wine tasting session, live French music and cocktails.

Officials, including the French ambassador, members of the French Cultural Board and the French Tour-

ism Bureau will attend the event.

From tomorrow through next Friday, French food fans will also be able to enjoy a Summit Club Set Dinner (888 yuan +15% service) every night at the Summit Restaurant in the Kunlun Hotel. The chefs have prepared two separate six-course Set Dinner menus to be featured alternately each night. Set Dinners are limited to 60 orders per night.

Next Wednesday the chefs will hold a cooking demonstration (680 yuan per person) at the hotel. The course includes tuition and a five-course dinner menu. Each participant will receive an official Certificate of Participation from Le Cordon Bleu Paris signed by the Chefs.

Language village looking for parent volunteers

By Jackie Zhang

Concordia Language Villages is looking for two parents to volunteer for its summer village, Global Language Village, in Sijiqing Central Primary School in Beijing next month.

"Applicants should be the parents of the students participating in the village," said Zhong Shuang from Concordia Language Villages.

"One of the two volunteers will participate in all the events held in the village and will be professionally trained by American teachers. Since he or she will be responsible for helping communication between students and American teachers, the applicants

for this position are required to be able to communicate in English. Primary school English teaching experience is preferred. The other one will work as a journalist in the village."

Global Language Village is specially designed for China by Concordia Language Villages, a program of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota in the United States. The village recruits parents to volunteer to help children learn English.

In the village camp, each classroom stands for a state in the United States, and all are decorated in different styles. Children can experience an American English atmosphere there.

N W

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Outdoor dips

By Tom Mackenzie / Annie Wei

Waves lapping at the sand, bikini clad girls awkwardly sheltering from the sun under oversized umbrellas, kids digging and building with buckets and spades and teens diving full stretch after volleyballs. No, this isn't the coastal city of Qingdao but a man-made beach in Tuanjiehu Park, a stone's throw from Sanlitun.

For a city teetering on the edge of drought and faced with an unprecedented water shortage, Beijing is surprisingly well equipped for a bit of outdoor aquatic fun in the sun. And with the weathermen predicting chart-topping temperatures and steam room humidity there's never been a better time to strip down to the Speedos and sample the city's watery delights.



Fun in the sun at Tuanjiehu Beach Wonderland

Photo by Tom Mackenzie

Beaches in Beijing

Tuanjiehu Beach Wonderland

Tuanjiehu Park, 16 Tuanjiehu Nanli, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8596-2148

Price: 20 yuan per person for the whole day

Miyun Yunfoshan

Hailed as the biggest man-made beach in Beijing, this resort gets its sand shipped all the way from Tanghu, a port town near Tianjin. It also has a wave machine, volleyball courts, a rock-climbing area and even a surfing section.

But you have to splash out for this kind of fun – two days at Miyun Yunfoshan Beach costs 260 yuan per person.

How to get there: Xiwongzhuang town, Miyu County, Beijing. About one and a half hours north east of the city center.

Tel: 8903 2255

City Sea View

This beach claims to be one of the biggest in China, with 60,000 square meters of sand and 'sea'. They have gone for a tropical look, with coconut trees, palms and colorful umbrellas. There is also a wave machine, cafes, BBQ area and bar.

Where: Xiedao Holiday Vila near the Airport expressway

Open from 9am to 10pm
Tel: 8431-9689 or 8431-0885

How to get there:

Take bus 359, 418, 735, 935, or 813 to Xiedao Holiday Vila (Xiedao Dujiacun in Pingyin)

Price: 60 yuan for an adult and 40 yuan for children shorter than 1.4 meters

Outdoor pools

Chaoyang Park swimming pool

The park has a newly opened pool for children as well as a standard size pool (50m X 25m).

Open from 10am to 10pm.

Price: 17 yuan per person including the park entrance fee and the swimming pool fee (12 yuan if you buy at the pool gate).

Tel: 6502-5008

Tip: The south gate of the park is the nearest to the pool.

Longtanhu park swimming pool

This park has three pools for children, a diving pool and a standard pool of 50m X 25m.

Where: near Jingsong, south third ring road.

Price: adults 15 yuan per day, 12 yuan for students.

Tel: 6713-1103

Workers' Stadium pool

This was the most popular outdoor swimming pool in Chaoyang before the opening of Chaoyang Park swimming pool.

It has two pools, one for children and one of standard size.

Price: 12 yuan for the day.

Tel: 6501-6655-5150

Sihai Water Wonderland

Sihai opened in the middle of June and will close at the end of August.

It has seven pools with a total of 8000 cubic meters of water, man-made waves, water stairs and even a water cycling arena.

Where: north of Pingguoyuan, Shijingshan area.

Price: 15 yuan during the day and 10 yuan in the evening.

Tel: 8873-5998

Extra train services scheduled as passenger number hit record highs



Beijing Railway Station

IC Photo

By Chen Shasha

Summer time is one of the best times for traveling but, with students on summer holidays, also one of the most crowded. To help cut the crowds Beijing Railway Station has increased its services with 10 extra trains running between July 1 and August 31.

As well as the long distance routes, there are nine trains from Beijing to Beidaihe, the nearest beach to Beijing, in Hebei

Province. The travel-time from Beijing to Beidaihe is between two to five hours, depending on which line you travel on.

Beijing Railway Station bosses are predicting record numbers of railway passengers this summer, with up to 10,850,000 expected to take to the trains, a six percent increase on last year. If you plan to travel by train, it is recommended that you buy your ticket four days before you leave.

Summer trains timetable

L113, from Beijing to Shanghai.

Departs at 23:50, arrives at 22:51 the next day

L3, Beijing to Harbin east station.

Departs at 11:01, arrives at 5:58 the next day

L59, Beijing to Yantai.

Departs at 14:13, arrives at 5:57 the next day

L41, Beijing to Dalian.

Departs at 0:53, arrives at 16:32 the next day

L61, Beijing to Dalian.

Departs at 17:01, arrives at 10:05 the next day

L105, Beijing to Qingdao.

Departs at 12:04, arrives at 2:55 the next day

L67, from Beijing to Tai Mountain.

Departs at 10:38, arrives at 17:46 the same day

L55, from Beijing to Changchun.

Departs at 11:53, arrives at 5:40 the next day

L57, from Beijing to Dandong.

Departs at 0:43, arrives at 17:50 the same day

ASK Beijing Today

Greg from US asked:
How much should I tip in China?

Tipping is something really foreign to the majority of Chinese people. Still, the tipping culture seems to be slowly creeping into big cities. There are still no strict rules about tipping. If people want to give a little more to show their appreciation they should give as much as they feel is appropriate.

Greg also asked: Is it possible to find an apartment without having to go through an estate agent?

It seems you cannot avoid estate agents. But if your Chinese is good enough, you can try to look for an apartment through Chinese websites like Sohu.com and Sina.com, both of which have housing sections. Some are real estate agents and some are private landlords. Most of them will expect inquiries from local tenants so prices will be cheaper than those apartments advertised for foreign tenants.

David Zelly from the US asked: I've been going out with a lovely Chinese girl and now I'm due to meet her parents for the first time, what should I do? Should I take a gift for the mother, or the father, or for both of them? What kind of gift should I get them? Are there any traditional presents you could recommend?

Meeting the parents in China is a big deal. Not only does it mean that you are serious about the girl, it also means you hope to get engaged or married in the future.

A typical modern family will probably be happy with a practical gift, something they can use in the house or on themselves. The first gift should be given to the mother, who is typically in charge of the family. If possible, try to get both parents gifts, to underline just how generous you are and to show that you respect her parents.

The girls at *Beijing Today* office suggest you get to know as much about her family as you can before meeting them for the first time. Ask your girlfriend what she thinks would make a good gift for her parents.

Some Chinese men give fruit baskets to their girlfriend's parents. If you want to really impress try to think of something a bit more imaginative.

If you have any questions about living in Beijing, write to: dongnan@ynet.com, Beijing Today will try to find you the answers to your questions.

(By Annie Wei)

Get ready for th

Young Italians at the Turn of the Millennium is at the Galleria Continua runs between July 1 and August 20. It is organized and financed by Giulio di Gropello with the Giulio di Gropello Collection. The aim is to present Italian art to a broader worldwide audience and to support Italian art by showing a selection of artists who have contributed significantly to shaping current Italian art trends.



Massimo Bartolini's *A Cup of Tea*

Massimo Bartolini, artist, discusses his work *A Cup of Tea*

"I arrived in China six days ago, and have spent the time building the installation. I like the whole process, getting involved with my hands. [The piece takes the form of a room, with a fan, a drawing board, a bookshelf, a cooker, a bed and a chair. In the ceiling is a trapdoor into a seemingly infinite whiteness.] *A Cup of Tea* is a physical space. It's a still life. And it's ultimately an endless space. The trapdoor leads us from the human world to something like the soul. It's called *A Cup of Tea* because when you make a cup of tea, the leaves sink to the bottom, while the purity, the essence of the tea, stays at the top. It's a kind of a loop of meaning. The area below is an oppressive physical space. So we have two atmospheres within the same space at the same time. It's not natural. It's like a synthesis, a figure of a house. The drawing board and the bookshelf are present because they are present in my real house. You'll notice there are only technical works, no poetry or anything – so it becomes a figure of the place I actually live. The ceiling is very low and that underlines the idea of man. It would be difficult to live here, you would require great physical strength. In the background you can hear a dull mechanical sound. It sounds like a natural occurrence, but actually it is looped from the computer. The sound is called 'doom'. It's a sound that could have been there, occurring naturally, but it isn't natural at all."



Mocellin – Pellegrini's *Non si corre nei chiostri*

Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo, owners of Galleria Continua

"Galleria Continua's new center in Beijing is the result of the desire to show western contemporary artists in an area where they are still scarcely visible and largely unknown.

Through this new channel of communication Galleria Continua would like to initiate a dialogue between East and West, bringing two different cultural and operating models together, each filled with stimulating prospects."



Paola Pivi's *Untitled*



e young Italians

Roberto Cuoghi's *S.titolo*

Giulio di Gropello, art collector and the exhibition organizer

"For a long time, our [Italian] Government was doing nothing for young Italian artists. So I began collecting, buying pieces I thought were important. I've spent a long time supporting Italian artists just by that: buying. I've been involved with The Italian Studio Program now for several years [1998-2004]. What you see here is just one part of a huge collection. While the artists may not look so young now, you have to remember, they were young 10 years ago. The vast majority of the pieces here were created between 1995 and 2004.

When it comes to collecting, I don't care what media you use. For me, it's not about whether you are a painter, a designer, an architect. I'm interested in the power of your idea. Leonardo used to say painting is a mental thing anyway, and I think that's right.

As a collector, you have to have a sense for when you get a work, and stick it on the wall, what will happen after 10 years? Is it still going to tell you something? Of course, this isn't as difficult for me now as it might be. Now I have knowledge. My mother was a poet, and I've been around art since I was 5 years old.

For example, this piece [gestures to a series of elaborately carved boxes] is called *Mausoleum for a Worm*. The worm is laid in sugar, then inside the box on the top here. Why? Well, a worm has a genetic code more complex than a human being. The artist thought, 'well if he has that, he deserves a mausoleum'. He has used the most luxurious and glamorous wood. When you think about it, it's an incredible tomb to the size of the creature. [clicks fingers] I think you can see there is something here.

There is a design to how we present the pieces too. Here [Point to three works on wall – a cavalier in armor, a Japanese traditional carving made from a chemical compound used as a roof sealant and three photographs of old rural Italians holding the horns and antlers of extinct animals.] These three artists were friends. They're very different but the concept is the same – they are about things that don't exist anymore. You don't have the farmers working the land and the grapes. Now their grandson dresses like every grandson in the world, and he doesn't farm anymore. Like the horned animals, these people don't exist anymore. *The Japanese* picture is traditional in style, but the material



"This is a very exciting artist, Norma Jeane. He spent two years cutting his hair and rolling it onto this spool. This is a roll of 100 kilometers. Maybe the most powerful work in the exhibition."

– Giulio di Gropello discusses Noma Jeane's *Potlatch 10.1 / I am that which must never surpass itself, 2003-2005*



"This has a story. A Russian painter was just painting outside when he saw a meteorite land. He painted it. The Russian government made a stamp. The artist bought some pieces of the meteor from a dealer and made a sword. So the sword is literally from another planet."

– Giulio di Gropello discusses Senza Titolo's *Spada 2001*

is worthless, disposable, to show this culture has already been lost. Of course, the cavalier doesn't exist anymore. These people are working on something similar. They are three expressions of a similar concept.

I've done many exhibitions all over the world, it's a joy in itself; in Italy, at the PS1 MOMA in New York, and I also have a concept. I don't want to touch the mainframe of the building. I don't want the building to interfere with the works, I think they should be shown as they were intended. I preserve the building's structure and try not to distort the ideas. You have to capture a little of the idea as it originally was, otherwise it becomes something else.

In many of the works here, the relation of the past and the present is a preoccupation. But I think there is no sadness here, but there is the power of the past. If you think about the art in itself, there is no money in it for art students and later for artists. In the 1950s and 1960s, all the great Italian artists were collected

abroad. There's no room in Italy for the present. It's a struggle. They are working in an environment that doesn't help, in fact it's working against them. You can compare it to Fiat and the Italian car industry. It's the only car-maker in Italy. There's no competition. No one else is allowed in to build a factory. So Fiat is stagnating, because without competition you don't evolve. Everything is dedicated to what it used to be, not what it will be. You could say that for Italian art it is a good thing that they must go out and be seen by the world to make an impact. But in order to come out the idea has to be really novel. In the 1960s and 70s there was a big explosion of pop art when Warhol won every prize at Venice [art festival]. Italians had a movement at the same time, the Italian pop art. They made acidic reproductions of the Sistine Chapel. People asked why, of course. The artists replied that maybe in America a soup can is popular. For us, it's the Sistine Chapel."

(By Gareth George)



Grazia Toderi's *Apollo, 2003*

The Eagle's Throne

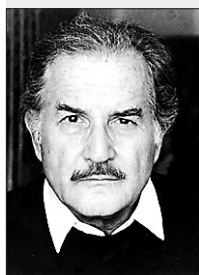
By Carlos Fuentes

Key themes: politics, satire and Mexico

What's it all about?

The Eagle's Throne is set in the future – 2020 – and yet is almost defiantly old-fashioned. The premise leading to the unusual approach Fuentes has chosen is that the Mexican President has ticked off the Americans, with dire results: 'We woke up on January 2 with our oil, our gas, and our principles intact, but with our communications systems cut off from the rest of the world. The United States, alleging a glitch in the satellite communications system that they so kindly allow us to use, has left us with no faxes, no e-mail, no grid, and no telephone service.'

It's a completely unbelievable premise, but it'll do. And what do the characters in the novel – Mexico's ruling elite – do in this situation? They write each other letters. Yes, *The Eagle's Throne* is a letter-novel in the best tradition of, say, Choderlos de Laclos – and, like *Dangerous Liaisons*, it is filled with intrigue and infighting.



Carlos Fuentes

A novel about political rulers writing letters to each other doesn't exactly fill me with bone-tingling excitement. What has it got that makes it worth a read?

"The story is propelled by love affairs, betrayals and a slew of double identities. As such, it is a novel of intrigue and suspense whose overblown characters teeter at the edge of satire. The actors of this novel do not aspire to be nuanced and rounded; instead, they want to reflect the corrosive effects that a malignant political system has on its players. This is not a novel that values its protagonists, but one that seeks to explore the culture of the presidential palace. The inhabitants of *The Eagle's Throne* are archetypes who surrender depth to serve a plot that twists and turns at break-neck speed. Once the reader concedes to that velocity, the novel becomes a farcical page-turner that delights in the most improbable of discoveries while skewering the ruling oligarchy."

– Salvador Plascencia, *The Los Angeles Times*

"Farcical page-turner" sounds good. So Fuentes masters the art of political satire?

"*The Eagle's Throne* possesses some brilliant political satire, but it's not always a satisfying read. The first half of the novel is slow going, with Fuentes reheating the same analogies over and over and indulging in some seriously overwrought mash notes. But once the double-crosses and bodies start piling up, the novel will make even a seasoned thriller-reader gasp."

– Yvonne Zipp, *Christian Science Monitor*

So there's plenty of death and not a small amount of double-crossing to keep us on our toes. Anything else we should know about?

"An initially rather static plot gathers pace with the emergence of a love child with Down's syndrome locked away in an asylum; a gay tryst; a coup plot; a corruption scandal; and an old ex-president who harbors a secret crucial to the succession."

– Maya Jaggi, *The Guardian*

I was looking for a bit of intrigue but gay trysts and a love child make this novel sound more like the latest edition of *The Enquirer* than a piece of intelligent political satire. Surely Fuentes goes a bit deeper?

"He portrays and dissects the tragicomedy of Mexican political culture with an air of extraordinary authority and remorseless humor. (...) Other sources of this book's considerable pleasures are Fuentes's characteristic dazzling, razor-sharp, intellectual flights. In his vast and multi-faceted oeuvre, this may be a minor work, but it provides a feast of political insight, aphorisms and maxims, in the

spirit of Machiavelli and Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*"

– Francisco Goldman, *The Washington Post*

A comparison with Machiavelli and Sun Tzu is quite an accolade. Is it really deserved?

"The author's message is as inaccurate as it is fatalistic: A country governed by very ancient mythologies, Mexico is congenitally incapable of generating a democratic society, and the uses, abuses, and customs of the 71-year PRI regime will forever taint the nation's future, like an oil spill. As readers can conclude by the end of *The Eagle's Throne*, apparently only Mexico's children are free of the original sin of corruption. This thesis, more anthropological than literary, is quite old, as old as Fuentes's works, and would be of literary interest only if *The Eagle's Throne* were a reasonable projection of Mexican history. But it is not."

– Christopher Dominguez Michael, *Foreign Policy*

A slight disagreement then...can anyone strike a balance between these two opposing views?

"*The Eagle's Throne* is not the novel to come to for fully realized characters or for emotion vividly captured; the weaknesses of Fuentes's approach are all too evident. But it has its strengths too, and these become increasingly apparent as the narrative unfolds and momentum builds. The reader comes to accept an unabashedly artificial yet still ingenious fiction on its own terms. And not just as a dramatized debate, fascinating as it is in the insights it offers: 'themes' live for Fuentes as characters might for another novelist."

– Michael Kerrigan, *Times Literary Supplement*

So in a nutshell, the characters are slightly lacking but the themes make this novel a page-turner?

"The most wickedly entertaining novel of Fuentes's career (...) That's the great joke of this brilliant political novel: Fuentes's sententious movers and shakers are so busy positioning themselves and trying to figure out where everyone else is in this hall of mirrors that they never quite see themselves."

– Terrence Rafferty, *The New York Times Book Review*

Bedtime reading for politicians then?

"Fuentes' scathing novel about national politics and presidential succession seems destined to become a handbook for the neophyte Latin American politician. North American politicians will ignore it at their peril."

– Alan Cheuse, *San Francisco Chronicle*

(By Tom Mackenzie)

Local shelf



Goth-Icky

By Michael J. Nelson
Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 176 pages, 140 yuan

From *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* to B horror movie icons to *The Addams Family* and beyond, macabre misfits have thrived in the fertile soil of American modern-age media and pop culture. Containing more than 200 images from the print and advertising archives of Charles S. Anderson Design Company in combination with a sharply hilarious text by Michael J. Nelson, *Goth-Icky* is a kitsch and campy testament to America's love of horror. So break out the black lipstick, curl up in your coffin, and get ready for some freaky fun!

Available:

Timezone 8 Art books

Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
Contact: 6400 4427

A Short History of Tractors in Ukraine

By Marina Lewycka
Penguin, 304 pages, 250 yuan

A middle-aged professor's aging and widowed father announces he intends to marry a blonde, big-breasted 30-something woman he has met at the local Ukrainian Social Club in the English town where he lives, north of London. Smitten with the ambitious hussy, their father forges ahead to help Valentina settle in England, spending what little pension he has buying her cars and household appliances and even financing her cosmetic surgery. His two daughters, Nadezhda, a socialist, and Vera, a proud capitalist, confront the longstanding ill will between them as they try to save their father from his folly.

Nine Parts of Desire

By Geraldine Brooks
Anchor, 272 pages, 200 yuan

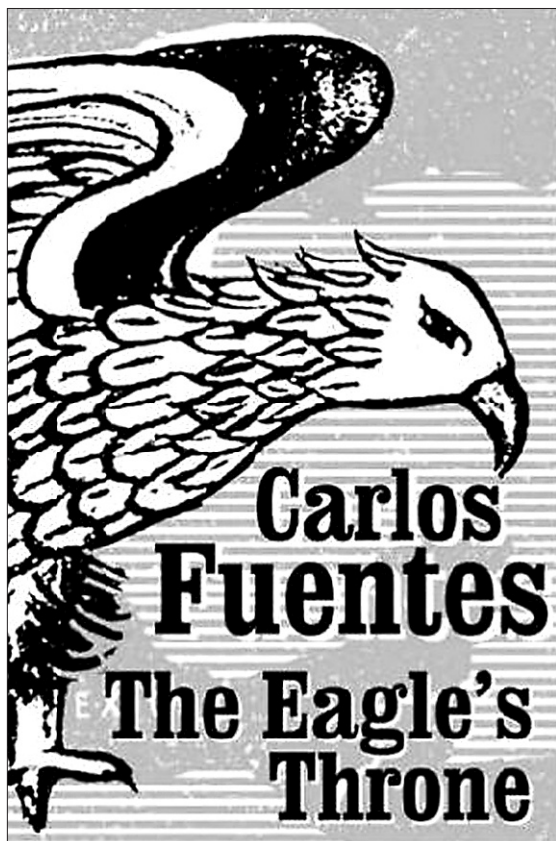
The 2006 Pulitzer winner Geraldine Brooks spent two years as a Middle East news correspondent, covering the death of Khomeini and the like. She also learned a lot about what it's like for Islamic women today. Brooks' book is exceedingly well-done. She knows her Islamic lore and traces the origins of today's practices back to Mohammed's time. Personable and very readable, Brooks takes us through the women's back door entrance of the Middle East for an unusual and provocative view.

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanli-tun Road, Chaoyang
Contact: 6586 9507

(By Wang Xiaoyuan)



French cuisine

The French... have surrounded food with so much commentary, learning and connoisseurship as to clothe it in the vestments of civilization itself... Cooking is viewed as a major art form: innovations are celebrated and talked about as though they were phrases in the development of a style of painting or poetry... A meal at a truly great restaurant is a sort of theater you can eat.

— Richard Bernstein, *The Fragile Glory*

Parfum French Restaurant: a Parisian experience



You won't bore of the boar at Parfum

A taste of rustic, rural France
Photos provided by Parfum



By Chu Meng

The huge number of French restaurants in Beijing reflects France's deep-rooted cooking culture and history. Each serves its own specialties and has its own story. Parfum, a brand new French eatery with its romantic decor and atmosphere in the heart of the CBD zone is set to make choosing between these restaurants even harder.

Steak is Parfum's house specialty. They stick to traditions while preparing the steaks, from the choosing the beef to slicing, stewing, grilling and serving it. Try the beef tenderloin with pepper-herb cruet, goose liver sauce and seasonal vegetable ragout. The veal tenderloin with shrimps on mashed potatoes and vegetable ragout is also a dish not to be missed. Appetizers include beef car-

paccio served with cashew nuts and a truffle dressing and other 20 other mouth-watering choices.

Though you can always order *a la carte*, the set menus (108, 238, 788, and 1,388 yuan) are a good way to go. Parfum also provides a selection of over 300 kinds of red and white wine, a cigar area, high-tea booths and evening piano performances.

The dishes at Parfum are often fusion styled, the surroundings fashionable and there's the scent of Paris in every detail.

Parfum

Where: 3/F, Bldg 19, China Central Place, 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-3pm, 5:30-10:30pm

Cost: 300 yuan per person

Tel: 6530 5799/5899

Firstar: French style lounge and restaurant

By Chu Meng

Firstar is another luxuries spot for French food. With its comfortable lounge you can almost imagine you are spending your afternoon or evening in France.

The famous American designer Mr Gin designed the restaurant. He chose a post-modern industrial style for the theme, combining black-and-white colors to create a bold contrast. The pebbled pathway that leads to the door creates a natural and unpretentious atmosphere.

Before feasting on French delicacies you can sit under the

awning with a glass of iced beer and watch life go by. You also can test your knowledge of French wines by scouring their wine collection cupboard on the left of the entrance. A row of book cabinets separate the dynamic center stage from the cozy dining area, adding more cultural flavor to your dinner. The private rooms and private sofa area, which is comfortable and quiet, are for a few friends or business partners who want to spend some private time together.

The prices are comparatively reasonable. The lean veal medal-

lion with mashed potatoes and vegetables (138 yuan) is sure to be a favorite and the pan-fried scallops with mushroom butter sauce (98 yuan) are a rich treat. Sole fillet with wine butter sauce (108 yuan), pan-fried hot goose liver (118 yuan) are some of the restaurant's most popular dishes. A set business lunch will set you back 88 yuan per person.

Firstar

where: No.18, Xiao Yun Road, Chaoyang

Open: 11am - 11pm

Cost: 150 yuan per person

Tel: 6464 9970 / 6460 1981



Inside Firstar
Photos provided by Firstar

Bleu Marine: an old ami

By Chu Meng

A trendy French bistro located near Silk Street, Bleu Marine primarily serves French-style seafood. The menu varies by season, and the wine list is commendable. In summer, sidewalk seating provides a truly Parisian feel. The chefs procure the freshest ingredients possible and diners get a unique menu every day.

Bleu Marine is famous for its Grilled Tenderloin Steak with Three Pepper Sauce and some consider it to be the best steak in town. In 2005 alone, the restaurant sold around 14,500 servings of the tenderloin steaks, which must say something about the quality. The grilled beef and lamb with mushroom sauce is also worth a try. Before going for a main course you can work

up an appetite by munching on some deep-fried brie with walnut or slurping a bowl of crab and corn cream soup. If you are on a date with a lady, pick the thin pancakes with brandy & orange sauce and home made cheese pudding for dessert and you will win their hearts.

The Bleu Marine was opened in 1998 by Celine Shen. A lot of the people who came for the opening are still faithful clients and many come every week to enjoy the food and relaxing atmosphere.

Bleu Marine

Where: 5 Gunghua Xili (south of Mexican Wave), Dongdaqiaolu Chaoyang

Open: 11:30am-2:30pm, 6:30pm-10:30pm

Cost: 250 yuan per person

Tel: 6500 6704

Photos provided by Bleu Marine



Bleu Marine's famous steak



A relaxed setting

Mind your bleedin' manners!

Table clothing

For important events and business dinners, a white tablecloth is the only option. For dinner with friends or family, you can use something a little more imaginative. The table cloth should match the napkins.

Cutlery

- Knives are placed on the right side of the plate, the blade turned towards the plate.

- Forks are placed on the left side, prongs on the tablecloth.

- Spoons are placed alongside the fork on the outside.

- Teaspoons or cake forks are placed above the plate but in front of the glasses.

- If you have to display several pieces on the same side, the rule is to display in the order of use. You may display a different number of pieces on each side.

Plates

Plates must be placed two centimeters away from the table edge. If they are decorated, the pattern is displayed on the topside; the plates should be around 60 centimeters apart.

At first, you should not place one plate on another, except for a soup entrée where you may put the soup plate on a dinner plate.

You must use the same set of tableware, except for cheese and dessert, or if you serve a very specific dish like a soufflé or a gratin.

How to place your guests

Placing people is one of the most important and one of the most difficult things; it is a major feature for a successful dinner.

- Try to find the best combination and bear in mind that:

- The host and hostess should not sit side by side, but face each other.

- Men and women should be sat in alternate seats as much as possible.

- The male guest of honor should sit to the right of the hostess, and the lady guest of honor to the right of the host. Left hand sides are for the second most important people at the dinner.

- Married couples should not sit side by side nor face each other, except if they are newly wed or engaged.

(By Chu Meng)

Discount voucher and free dish

Spend over 2,000 yuan at Jiao Ye Restaurant (4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang) and get a 200 yuan voucher. Buy two bottles of Budweiser and get another one free until July 14. Buy a fin dish and get a goblet of wine free. For details, call 6506 8855.



Special discount

Buy a dozen bottles of beer at YUS Bar (8 Sanlitun, Chaoyang) and get two bottles for free. Chivas set, including a bottle of Chivas, four soft drinks and a dish, only 450 yuan. For details, call 6416 1633.



22% off

Enjoy a 22% discount after 9 pm at T6 Hot Pot Restaurant (Soho 88, Jianguolu, Chaoyang) until July 23 and a 15% discount on lunch during the same period. The restaurant offers a new, spicy-style hot pot. For details, call 8580 6014.



100 yuan discount voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Weidao Jianghu restaurant (3rd floor, 169 Beiyuanlu Yayuncun, Chaoyang) and get a 100 yuan voucher until July 23. The voucher can only be used at lunchtime. The restaurant offers great Sichuan-style dishes. For details, call 6489 2344



30-80 yuan discount voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at the Grand Pacific Shopping mall (Juntai, 133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a 30-80 yuan voucher until July 9. For details, call 6612 6888.



25% off

Go shopping at the Colorful Yunnan Emerald store (26 Yuetan Beijie, Xicheng) and enjoy 25% off until July 9. As the biggest emerald store in Beijing, Colorful Yunnan stocks a range of high quality emerald and jade. For details, call 5856 6060.



Special offer

Traders Hotel (1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) special offer includes gourmet Asian and Western sandwiches, salads, rice dishes, freshly squeezed juices, and more. Free delivery within the China World Trade Center vicinity and 500m radius of Traders Hotel. For information, call 6505 2277 ext. 35.



50% off

Eat at Shou Fu Cheng restaurant (Cofco Plaza, 8 Jianguomennei Dajie, Chaoyang) on July 7, the restaurant's anniversary, and get a 50% off discount at this popular Korean eatery. For details, call 6526 0588.



(By Terence Lu)

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Jeanswest



CK Jeans



Jack and Joans in Xindong'an Store



Bossini shop in Xindong'an Store

A shopping list of jeans

Price: Under 100 yuan

Retail markets

You can always find cheap jeans in clothes markets like Yashow, Soshow, Silk-Street or the market near Beijing Zoo. Bargaining is a must in these places. Never offer a price above 100 yuan. The quality there is variable. Anyway, that gives you the excuse to try new styles every season.

Bossini

This is the brand you can often get discounted from their shops. They produce cotton-made casual clothes. Bossini jeans may not stand out but they are comfy and flexible. All the products are machine-washable.

Available: Bossini shops and stands in main department stores in town.

Price: 100-300 yuan

Jeanswest

The Australian brand's target customers are mainly those between 18 and 25 years old. Cross lines design sometimes makes the jeans look heavier than they in fact are. Jeanswest are very popular with Chinese students and white collars. Its straight jeans have a lively street style.

Available: Wangfujing Street; Xidan Street

Weipeng

This is a 100 percent Chinese brand, though the name Weipeng and its logo originate from a native American tattoo, which symbolizes perseverance and belief. Weipeng's jeans are preferred by middle-age people, especially women.

Available: Beijing Taihuo Dalou, Wangfujing

Price: 300-500 yuan

Only

Party girls' jeans. This season's fake diamond patterns and pink embroidery on the back pockets provide an eye-catching effect. Most of Only's jeans are a little bit longer than the normal Chinese women's size. So the shops provide a tailor service. The problem is that there are too many fakes on the market. Always check the logo, price tag and bar code.

Available: main department



Only



stores in town

Jack & Jones

A Danish brand.

Popular with men in their 30s. The jeans are classic five-pocket with comfortable fitting. Jack & Jones always have a natural worn out appearance.

Available: main department stores in town

Price: above 500 yuan

CK Jeans

Many people assume these are Calvin Klein, which is a misunderstanding. CK Jeans is a branch line of Calvin Klein's brand. From design to sales, it has nothing to do with the designer Calvin Klein. However, this doesn't stop them charging high prices.

Available: World Trade Center Shopping Mall; New Oriental Plaza

Levi's Jeans

Why is everyone looking for Levi? Perhaps because they're made in the USA? Or it is the only answer when you can't find the right pair of jeans? Sometimes we are just surprised at how the irregular crumples bring a new look to our legs. You will find all the types of jeans in Beijing's Levi's shops, but not all sizes.

Available: World Trade Center Shopping Mall; New Oriental Plaza

Lee

The oldest jeans in the world and also the first to come to China. This is another youth brand. Lee has both formal and street collections. This season, Lee has developed more workers' jeans for those preferring loose and free styles.

Available: main department stores

Someone used to say, if the Europeans saved their time spent ironing suits, and just wore jeans like the Americans, Europe nowadays would be much more developed.

Jeans are for everyone. All jeans are wearable, no matter how much they cost. What you need to know is just where to find them.



Lee

Where to have jeans made to order:

Clothes market, South to Renmin University, Haidian
Clothes market of Beijing Zoo, Xizhimen, Haidian



Lee

Jeans Yes and no:

Yes!

1. A pair of black or worn deep-color jeans matches all tops.

2. The deeper your jeans' color, the more formal and high-class they look. So if you want to wear jeans with a business suit, black jeans would be an ideal choice.

3. If you are large, an XXXXXL pair will just exaggerate your size. Go for something fitting you. Don't choose those with a large pocket on the back or with lines.

4. Give the jeans you buy at least five centimeters addition in length. Then you will not need to worry about cutting or shrinking.

5. Every body should own at least five pairs of good-quality jeans. The five should include at least one pair of blue jeans, one worn and one dirty. Dirty jeans make you look fashionable and younger.

No!

1. If both of your socks can be seen when you sit down, it means that your jeans are too short, which makes you look silly.

2. White jeans used to be very popular, but that was in the 1980s. If you do want to wear them, you need to be very careful when choosing tops and belts.

3. Wash your jeans as little as possible, so the way they look on you after one year will be almost the same as six months ago.

4. Always wash inside out, to maintain the color and quality of the jeans.

5. Do not dry your jeans warm, which definitely will make them shrink.

(By Wang Xiaoyuan)



Safer, more comfortable air travel

Most people don't have any problems when they fly, but hurtling around the world in a metal box can have its unpleasant moments. It's possible to make airplane travel safer and more comfortable. Here are some tips provided by American Academy of Family Physicians:

Air sickness

If you get motion sick easily, you may be more comfortable if you take some sort of motion sickness drug before you fly. Note that you must take the drugs before you get sick; there is unfortunately nothing that I know of that will relieve motion sickness once it has started. Motion sickness is caused in part by a discrepancy between what the eye sees and what the inner ear feels. It may help to close your eyes the moment you start to consider thinking about getting airsick.

Pain in ears

If your ears hurt when you fly, try taking a decongestant medicine before you get on the plane. You can also swallow often and chew gum during the flight. Planes are also very noisy. Consider bringing some earplugs with you or use the built-in systems for movies or music.

Air quality

The air that you breathe inside an airline cabin is very dry. This can lead to dehydration, which can also make you feel lousy. It is strongly advised that bringing a liter or two of water with you, and guzzling that non-stop throughout the trip.

Jet lag

Jet lag is your body's way of asking you not to abuse it by upsetting its normal cycle. If you go waltzing across multiple time zones, the following methods can help you:

Get plenty of sleep before you leave.

Don't drink a lot of alcohol.

Eat well-balanced meals.

Avoid overeating.

Exercise as much as you can on your trip.

Use sleep medicines for only a few days.

Get used to a new time zone by going along with the local meal and bedtime schedules.

(By Qiu Jiaoning)



Keeping cool

By David Drakeford

After a stinking week long cold caused by sleeping with my air conditioner on full-blast, I decided to seek out some professional advice for a better way to keep cool in Beijing's sweltering summer heat.

What to buy

Blinds keep out the sun, especially useful on eastern and southern facing windows. If you can hang them on the outside then it will also keep the pane of glass cool, which can make a big difference to the temperature of the room.

Instead of standard incandescent light bulbs, try using a lamp with a fluorescent bulb. This produces a lot less heat and also saves on electricity.

As an alternative to air-conditioning, use a window fan. It should face out of the window on the sunny side of the apartment blowing hot air out and, at the same time, pulling cool air in from another open window on the shady side.

— George from B&Q

What to eat

One of the best foods to eat in hot weather is watermelon. As you might guess from the name it is 90 percent water to keep you hydrated and, although it tastes sweet, a watermelon has half the sugar of an apple. A ripe melon should produce a rich thudding sound when struck, can be cooled down in the fridge and, if whole, stored there for one week. Cucumber is also

considered *guailei* by the Chinese, i.e. a kind of melon. You can make a cool summer salad out of either with feta cheese and olives.

— Imogen Stroud, foodie

A Chinese doctor

Fengyoujing medicated oil is the ubiquitous green liquid you may have seen kept to soothe mosquito bites. It can also be dabbed onto the skin to cool the body down.

Acupuncture points can be stimulated with needles for sunstroke, but in less severe cases of overheating you can apply some pressure yourself with fingers. The three relevant points are: *renzhong* (philtrum), *neiguan* (wrist) and *zusanli* (on the leg, three inches below the lower edge of the kneecap and one inch outside of the shinbone).

Water with a 0.3 percent salt content may help if you feel uncomfortable and 'warming' foods such as fried food, meat and alcohol

should be avoided. Cold wine still counts as 'warm' for the body's system of balance. In general vegetables are 'cooling', as are most juicy fruits except for orange.

— Dr Tao

Wisdom from the west

Keeping fluid intake high is important of course, but caffeinated and alcoholic drinks are diuretic, meaning that they increase the discharge of urine. Sweating is unavoidable and, in fact, as you become acclimatized to the heat of summer (ideally over 10-14 days) you will sweat quicker and in greater quantity than before. A simple cooling method that many people have forgotten is the humble hand fan.

— Enid Smith,

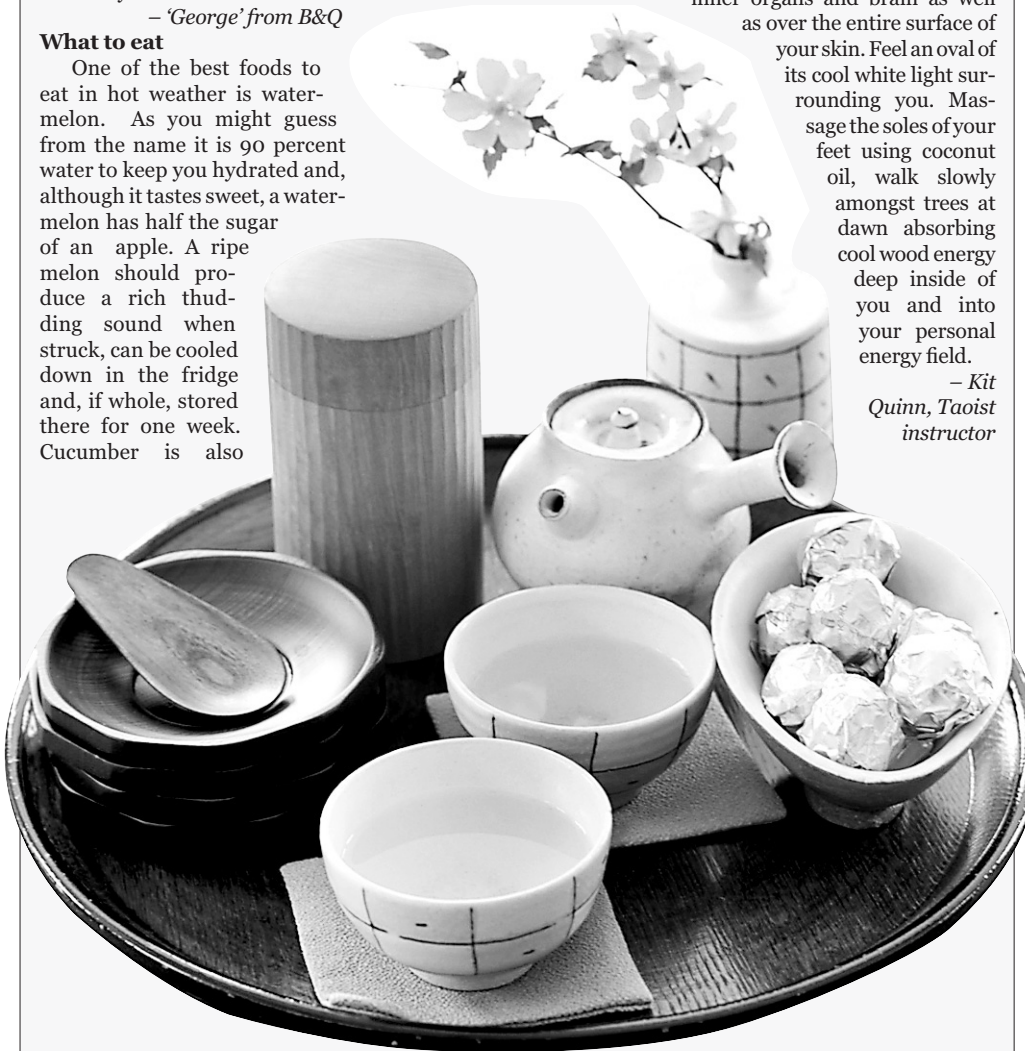
General Practitioner

Alternative therapy

Lunar energy offers yin coolness, wear loose white clothing and silver jewelry, refresh yourself with moonlit walks – absorb the silvery light, imagine the moonlight washing gently through your inner organs and brain as well as over the entire surface of your skin. Feel an oval of its cool white light surrounding you. Massage the soles of your feet using coconut oil, walk slowly amongst trees at dawn absorbing cool wood energy deep inside of you and into your personal energy field.

— Kit

Quinn, Taoist instructor



Say 'No' to skin aging

Dr Faith Deng from Bioscor International Clinic for Cosmetic Medicine says exposure to ultraviolet light – UVA or UVB – from sunlight accounts for 90 percent of the symptoms of premature skin aging, which we call photoaging. Most of the photoaging effects occur by age 30.

Changes in the epidermis caused by the sun include thickening of the epidermis, pigment sediment and the growth of skin lesions such as actinic keratoses.

In the dermis, sun effects cause collagen to break down at a higher rate than with just chronologic aging. Sunlight damages collagen fibers and causes the accumulation of abnormal elastin.

When this elastin accumulates, enzymes are produced in large quantities. Normally, enzymes remodel sun-injured skin by manufacturing and reforming collagen. However, this process does not always work well and. This results in

the formation of disorganized collagen fibers known as solar scars. When the skin repeats this imperfect rebuilding process over and over wrinkles develop.

Dr Deng suggests that the earlier prevention is the most important, those ways you can adopt simply by yourself: protection from the sun, careful cleaning of your skin, and moisturizing. When irreversible effects of photoaging occur, you have to seek professional clinical

procedures for facial rejuvenation. From next week Bioscor will introduce a series of therapies such as intense pulsed light, chemical and micro peel, super pulsed radio frequencies, and botox anti-wrinkle injections.

Bioscor Beijing Clinic

Tel: 6503 5707 / 5706

Email: beijing@bioscor.com.cn

www.bioscor.com.cn

Add: Room 1008, E-Tower No. 12 Guanghai Rd. Beijing Chaoyang 100020 (By Chu Meng)

Banish 'bog breath'



Ever suffered from bad breath? It is oral hygiene and gastrointestinal health that are two key causes of bad breath, according to Li Rongchun, a doctor from the Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital. When you have bad breath, make sure you are eating right and brushing and flossing after every meal.

If you are suffering from bad breath, here are some things you can ingest (or chew) that can help.

1. Move over parsley, there are some new halitosis-fighting herbs in town. "Coriander, spearmint, tarragon, eucalyptus, rosemary and cardamom are all good for fighting bad breath," says Dr Christine Gerbstadt, who has lectured on oral health. You can chew on fresh herbs or make tonics by steeping them in hot water (as a tea). These herbs make an excellent digestive as well-doubling the benefits of ending a meal this way.

2. A recent study found that a serving of yogurt each day reduces the level of odor-causing hydrogen sulfide in the mouth. Plus, the American Dietetic Association (ADA) recommends getting enough vitamin D from yogurt, cheese and milk if you're worried about halitosis because this vitamin creates an inhospitable environment for bacteria growth.

3. Crunchy types such as apples, carrots, celery are your friends when it comes to fighting halitosis. "Eating foods that increase saliva production keep the mouth moist and rinsed out," explains Cynthia Sass, ADA spokeswoman and registered dietician.

4. Masking techniques. Sugarless gum shouldn't replace brushing your teeth after a meal, but in a pinch it can freshen breath (masking odors) and is another way to increase saliva production to rinse away plaque and bacteria.

5. Eating berries, citrus fruits, melons and other vitamin C-rich foods create an inhospitable environment for bacteria growth. A diet rich in vitamin C is also important for preventing gum disease and gingivitis – both are causes of halitosis.

(By Qiu Jiaoning)



Zhongshan Park

Photos by ImaginChina

By Sebastian Montana

China's best-kept secret has gone from fishing village to bustling tourist metropolis in under 50 years, boasting a military history that would not be out of place in a Hollywood blockbuster. With Great Britain, Russia and Japan all having occupied the region in its recent past, due to the strategically located ice-free port, it is hard to believe that a total of 47 years of colonial occupation here ended only a little over half a century ago.

Today, back under Chinese sovereignty, the port city of Dalian, (pronounced Daalien) situated on the southern tip of the country's Liaoning Province, with the Yellow Sea to the east and the Bohai Bay to the west, is known by many names "Hong Kong of the North", "City of Gardens", "City of Fashion" and recently dubbed "Pearl of Northern China" by often visiting past President Jiang Zemin.



Old-fashioned street car

Best season

The best time to visit Dalian is between May and October. It's a perfect summer getaway.

Get there

Dalian is less than one hour from Beijing by air, with flights also connecting to Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Accommodation is plentiful, ranging from budget to five star hotels and beach resorts.

For further information on Dalian, including tours available, contact China International Travel Service Dalian (CITSD) at euro@citsdl.com

Dalian: Coastal cool



Sculpture in Xinghai Park

Zhongshan Circle

Now home to over six million inhabitants and one of China's largest ports, a walk around the city takes a couple of hours and allows time to feast the eyes on the amazing contrast in architecture, especially the beautiful buildings around the city's huge Zhongshan Circle – the heart of Dalian.

There are hints of ancient Rome and European Gothic, the arched roofs of the Renaissance period and several brooding Russian styled designs. Of course the skyscrapers have found homes here too, but they don't seem to intrude too much. A novel idea is the giant TV screen erected above the regal Dalian Hotel opposite Zhongshan Circle, used whenever the city's popular football team, Dalian Shide play. This team is to China what Man United are to England. The games are shown on the big screen and thousands of football faithful take time out to cheer on their lads from the city center. Very festive and very loud.

The vast and impressive People's Square, formerly known as Stalin Square during the Russian occupation of the city is another popular place for people to gather and relax at the day's end, to play endless games of cards, shoot the breeze or go through slow tai ji shadow boxing routines. I've always found just watching the communal square life in China to be some of the best moments I've had in this ever-changing land of



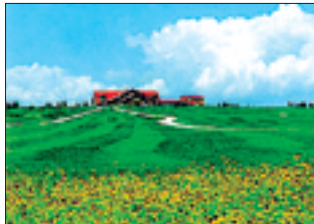
Bangchui Island

contrasts.

Dalian's recent green city program, which saw the municipality allocating a massive budget to large tracts of lawns and flowered gardens, has paid high dividends and along with the gigantic public squares, gives locals and visitors a daily opportunity to slow down and appreciate the city. The sense of freedom these hectares of gardens and squares bring seems to act as a stress reliever judging from the laid back attitude of friendly Dalianites.

Coast

But perhaps it is the coastal attractions that set the city apart from others in China. A drive up the Binhai Road that follows the southern coast links the numerous major beach and scenic resorts. Two of the most popular are Bangchui Island, set in a mass of forests and overlooking countless tiny islands and the fantasy world of Tiger Beach Park, with its statues of animals littered about like some giant suspended animation zoo. The *Roaring Tigers* sculpture there is believed to be the largest in the world, weighing an awesome 2,000 tons. Bangchuidao



Golden Stone Beach

is the most famous swimming beach in Dalian with clean water and good security. Guests of the Bangchuidao Hotel get to enjoy the best part of the beach.

To the north of the city, a Light Rail train shuttles you to the sprawling Golden Pebble Beach scenic resort area, with a ribbon of almost eight kilometers of beach guarded by its weather-corroded landscape – the city's own Riviera. Scientists have concluded that many of the golden pebbles on the beach are over 600 million years old, so tread carefully on all this history. Further up are the contrasting Bingyu Valley's mystical green mountains and clear flowing rivers, ideal for picnics. Golfers can keep swinging at one of the city's three scenic courses, legacy of the Japanese, and scuba diving, fishing and hiking can all be arranged at the resorts.

Just south of Dalian city is the port of Lushun, formerly well known as Port Arthur and seat of the Russian tsarist fortress, built at the turn of the last century to repel attacks from Japan. Today although only a part of the old Port Arthur is open to the public, the area remains an important part of history in this region.



Renmin Park (People's Park)

Eating: seafood

Like any coastal city, local cuisine favors seafood. Dalian is famous for its edible sea cucumbers of which there are more than 20 varieties. Although not the most visually appealing food - looking like a spiky, gray slug - they are reputedly very nutritious, rich in protein and low in cholesterol, with a pungent warm flavor. Legend has it they make one live longer, which caused me to devour copious amounts to assist my quest for immortality.

The city is also the abalone capital of China. They are steamed, cut into intricate paper-cut shapes and then returned to the shells to be cooked with wine and herbs. When held up with

chopsticks, the flesh looks like a lantern. The local red porgy fish makes up the other much sought after dish for diners, steamed and served to appear live on the plate. Much of the cooking here belongs to the Shandong cooking style, which favors color and appearance on presentation.

Those not after seafood should try Tianjin Street, scattered with restaurants serving Dalian fried dumplings and Chinese pancakes and fear not, with almost 5,000 restaurants serving Chinese, Western, Japanese, Muslim, South Korean and Russian food, you're bound to find something to seduce your taste buds.

Shopping

This is also a city to shop, a mall metropolis. Tianjin Street is inundated with department stores, boutiques and outdoor bazaars. Also try the Dalian Costume Trade Market and the Dalian Painting and Calligraphy Garden. Downtown beneath Victory Square, are hectares of bazaar space in a four-floor-deep underground haven for spenders. When it comes to clothing fashions in China, Dalian ranks supreme.

The women here are head-

turners, with a style that seems to have stepped directly off the pages of the latest fashion glossy. Its not surprising the event that has put the city on the map is the annual Dalian International Fashion Festival, usually held in September, when the world's glitterati and fashion gurus descend for what is probably China's premier garment fair for traders both at home and abroad, turning the city streets into endless strutting ramps.

Language and other

With the city beginning to open up more to western visitors and the rapid progress of reform taking place in China, there is always someone in the hotel, shopping area or bus who speaks some English (usually a student) and although organized tours are available, being adventurous and doing things on your own is possible and a great way to meet the people. A Chinese phrase book also comes in handy!

The peaceful city currently attracts many visitors from nearby South Korea and Japan and has held the important Fifth Asia Europe Economic Ministers Meeting, giving additional global exposure to Dalian and focusing many European eyes on its obvious leisure and investment potential as an international navigation hub and distribution center in this part of the world.

City of Hamilton

If you want to just watch the Bermudian people, the faces, smiles and wonderful range of colors, Hamilton, the capital city, is a good spot. Although it has only a permanent population of approximately 1,000, Hamilton is the only comprehensive city in Bermuda.

Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute and the Victoria Park are two sights worth visiting.

Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI)

In BUEI, you can actually experience what it feels like to submerge without leaving land in a simulated dive that feels like and sounds like you are really underwater. See exhibits on shipwrecks and what life is like beneath the ocean.

Open: every day (except Christmas day) from 9 am to 5 pm, 10 am to 5 pm during weekends.

Admission: adults, US\$12.5, seniors, US\$10, children age from 7 to 16, US\$6. Children under 6 can visit for free.

Victoria Park

The four-acre park was laid out in honor of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It is used as an entertainment venue for free concerts. It features a sunken garden, ornamental shrubbery, and a Victorian bandstand. Outdoor concerts are held here in summer.

St. George World Heritage

The Town of St. George was the former capital of Bermuda before Hamilton took the mantle in 1815. It is the oldest continuously inhabited town of English origin in the New World, and has retained its charm and character into the 21st Century.

For their outstanding universal value, St. George and its fortifications were designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2000.

A two-hour tour starts from the King's Square, where you can see stocks, whipping posts and pillories – forms of punishment in the 16th and 17th centuries, and end at Somers Wharf will take you through a variety of buildings in the town, such as the Somers Garden, the heart of Sir George Somers, the admiral of the *Sea Venture*, is buried here.

Crystal and Fantasy Caves



Hamilton Fort



Street scenes in Hamilton



Hamilton Bay

Discover Bermuda

Bermuda calls to mind the Bermuda Triangle, which is linked to numerous disappearances of ships and planes and was first labeled 'The Devil's Triangle' in an article in 1950.

The Bermuda Triangle refers to an ocean area bordered by the tip of Florida, Bermuda island and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The real Bermuda, a UK territory resting hundreds of miles north of the Bahamas, is a beautiful and scenic island worthy and safe for visiting. The island is 23 miles long, and the maximum width is 1.75 miles. Seen from the air, Bermuda resembles a fishhook. It consists of 181 named islands and islets.



Hamilton's City Hall

are also a must to see in St. George's Parish.

Crystal and Fantasy Caves

Now, if your cricket ball falls down a hole in the ground, perhaps the least likely thing you will do is to go underground to retrieve it. However, Carl Gibbons and Edgar Hollis were blissfully unaware of it and discovered the Crystal Caves as a result in the early 1900s.

The Crystal Caves is named after the crystal clear water that fills the caves. The clarity is so good that it is possible to see the cave bottom, about 55 feet below the water surface.

Guided tours begin every 30 minutes. The guide will show you the hole the boys used, then, starting a tour of the cave walking on a wooden pontoon constructed over the water. The cave is full of illuminated stalagmites and stalactites that have taken millions of years to form. Taking photos is allowed, but visitors are forbidden to touch the stalactites and stalagmites.

Following the yellow brick road in the Crystal Cave, you enter Fantasy Cave. It will give you a totally different experience from the Crystal Cave.

Fantasy Cave is a virtual jewel box filled from top to bottom with formations. Rare chandelier clusters of soda straw formations adorn the ceilings in great abundance. Entire walls are covered in calcite mineral deposits that resemble frozen waterfalls.

Deep pools of water hint at the underlying network of passageways



Unfinished church

connecting the cave with the ocean.

Address: Wilkinson Avenue, Bailey's Bay

Transportation: By bus on routes numbered 1, 3, 10 and 11 from the City of Hamilton and Town of St. George's

Opening time: 9am to 5pm, last tour is at 4:30pm

Forts

Forts are the oldest stone buildings in Bermuda, representing every stage of the island's development.

Bermuda's first forts were constructed in 1612 and the building of fortifications continued until the 1940s. By the end of the Second World War, approximately 70 sites had been fortified on the island and over 100 forts have been constructed at these sites.

Among the forts, Fort St. Catherine, built in 1614, is one of the most impressive. It's at the north end of Bermuda, over the beach where Bermuda's first settlers came ashore. There is a replica of the Crown Jewels guarded by a wax figure of a Beefeater, as well as a gun and weapon collection, and cannons pointing at sea. A superb beach is adjacent to the fort.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Getting there

From the air, Bermuda is served by American Airlines, Continental, Delta, United Airlines, US Airways, Air Canada and British Airways. Non-stop service is available from cities including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Toronto, London, and Munich.

The only airport in Bermuda, Bermuda International Airport, is at St. George's Parish, three miles south west of the St George Town and 10 miles east of the city of Hamilton.

A variety of cruise lines also serve Bermuda from April through to November.

Two ways to tour around

Segway Tour

It is interesting to have a tour in Bermuda with the Segway Human Transporter, the latest mode of transportation. With cutting edge technology, this machine is environmentally friendly, self-balancing and fun and easy to ride.

Before you start your tour, the local staff will give you a complete safety briefing and introduction to your Segway experience. Segway is the only vehicle allowed to tour the Maritime Museum and the Commissioner's House, allowing you ample opportunity for photos. It is a unique way to see and experience Bermuda.

Participants of the tour should be at least 16 years old and a maximum weight of 260 pounds (about 118 kilograms).

Contact: Robert Territo (441)

504-2581

Cost of Tour: US\$60 for one hour; US\$76 for one and a half hours

Walking Tour

The Bermuda Railway Trail, the train bed from Bermuda's only train between 1931 and 1948, was designated in 1984 as a public walking trail and bridle-path. It is a wonderful place to walk, run or cycle. Tribe Roads connect to the Railway Trail and the coastline of Bermuda. Get off the railway and head to one of Bermuda's beaches for a long walk in the sand. The Bermuda Walking Club meets on Sundays at different points around the island; it's free and you're welcome to join in.

Tel: (441) 737 0437

Website: <http://walk.free.bm>

History

Bermuda's name came from a Spaniard, Juan de Bermudez, who paid a visit in 1503. But the island remained uninhabited, despite visits by Spanish and English ships, until more than a century later, a hurricane blew a British ship called

the *Sea Venture* onto the reefs here in 1609 leading to the first settlement.

The *Sea Venture*, which was commanded by Admiral Sir George Somers, was on her way to the New World settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, with

settlers and supplies. Although most of the settlers continued on their way in a vessel they built while they were stranded on Bermuda, there have been people living here since that visit, and Bermuda was established as a British colony.



The town of St. George
Photos by Michael Alexander Chopin

By Han Manman

"Insurance is a service industry. You are not a mobile phone seller with a real sample in your hand that customers can see and feel. In the insurance industry, customers buy our insurance products believing that the products they buy will guarantee their security. So insurance agents need to be very steady to win the trust from customers.

When we select candidates to work for us we focus on their abilities to see things from other people's perspectives, to solve problems, to react quickly and receive feedback from customers. As an insurance company, our employees are the most expensive resource. We spend between 60 and 70 percent of the company budget on getting the best talent. So selecting suit-



able interns and training them to become the talented agents we want is a big challenge for our Human Resources department." *Constance Zhang, Citic-Prudential HR and Corporate Service Department senior manager.*

The following three interns at Citic-Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited Beijing Branch work in different departments. Constance Zhang said they all have something in common that made them suitable candidates for intern positions. All of them have had work or intern experience before; their education backgrounds and experience from the previous work brought them to our standard. Their characters correspond with Citic-Prudential's emphasis on the culture of 'respect'.

Working in an insurance company



Mu Yan

Mu Yan works for Citic-Prudential Accounting Department, got a degree in Accounting at Beijing Economic and Science and Technology University. She started her internship in May.

I am very conscientious at work and rarely make mistakes. My first Citic-Prudential intern interview was not hard, I was just asked to introduce myself and talk about my previous working experience. The second was very technical.

I remember that the first day I came to work, my financial manager told me that the accounting work in an insurance company is very different from other businesses. I got quite nervous when he said that.

I worked as an intern for over two months. Everyday I get busier and busier and talk less and less. I got involved in my new work quickly. When I first started at the company I felt that everyone was busy and there were lots of people in the office. I was doing the easiest things first like recouping expenses and filling out checks.

I took time to finish my work when I first started. I always check every step to make sure I don't make any mistakes. If I do anything wrong, for example writing something wrong on the check, I cannot revise it. I can only give it back to the insurance agent and ask them to change the receipt with their customers. But that is a real hassle for them. It is easy to make mistakes when hand writing a check but I cannot afford to make any mistakes, especially when writing out insurance premium checks. I often do the check for our insurance agents. I know that the insurance premium they got from the customers involved a lot of hard work because they have to persuade the customers to buy our products. If I have to ask them to change the insurance premium checks with the customers because of my mistake, it is very embarrassing and causes a lot of problems.



Du Yi

Du Yi works for Citic-Prudential Customer Service and got a degree in electronic engineering from the University of York in the UK. He will get a job offer this month after completing a six-month internship.

What is my future career? What kind of job would I like to do? These questions have been preying on me since I came back to China. I thought I had two options: one is doing a job according to my degree, that is, electronic engineering. However, I'm not so interested in it now. The second option was to work in the service industry. I am a social person and I like to talk with different people.

My interview went smoothly. I was assigned to the customer service department, which was the department I wanted to work in. For most people, customer service means making and receiving phone calls but that's actually only a small part of it. It also includes a face-to-face service and handling insurance policies.

I currently do face-to-face contacts with customers. Before, I was doing telephone interviews to enquire about customers' feedback about our insurance products and how we could improve. My boss helped me a lot. He taught me how to react in different situations. Our company has a guidebook that shows every process of the telephone interview, however, sometimes we need to be flexible to achieve our goals.

What I've learnt most from my internship is how to understand the customers and how to communicate better. Sometimes, business comes second and making your customers feel comfortable comes first.

Most of the customers who call us do so not to praise our service but to complain about something or ask questions. The first thing we need to do is to calm them down, listen to them and try to change them with a cheerful mood through the use of psychological techniques.

I think the main reason I have been offered a job is because of my personality. I'm always in a good mood and very rarely get angry, which is very important in this field of work. Besides, I am confident in my communication skills. In the interview with my boss, we got on really well. For some issues, I have my own opinions. We exchange ideas between each other and we also found that both of us hold the same viewpoints on certain things.



Greece

Greece works for Citic-Prudential Brand Promotion department and got a degree in Culture Exchange at the Central University For Nationalities. She joined Citic-Prudential in May 2005 after a five-month internship.

I was a dance teacher before I joined Citic-Prudential. I wanted to make some life changes so when I saw a Citic-Prudential's intern vacancy I applied.

I was assigned to the brand promotion department. This department aims to promote our company culture and image. Using war as an analogy for the way we run our business, my department is on the frontline. My boss asked me to organize the advertising for our newly opened branch in Pinggu County at the beginning of my internship. I was very stressed because I knew it would test my ability. After negotiating with some advertising companies I signed an agreement with one of them to put our advert in the best spot. My boss was happy with the result.

As I am an outgoing person, I feel I am well suited to the job. I also learnt a lot from the five-month internship, such as how to communicate with others. At the beginning of my internship, I understood how to communicate with people and I thought I was good at it. But my job needs me to communicate with different advertising companies and to strike deals with them. To start with I found the whole process quite complicated; I had to negotiate over different things and the prices always changed. But now I've learnt to change my tactics.

My internship also taught me how to use my initiative. My job is brand promotion, I need to make more people know about Citic-Prudential. If I meet people who haven't heard about our company, I tell them about it straight away. Walking in the street, I look around to see if there are any good billboard positions for our adverts. When I read a newspaper, the first thing I look for is news about Citic-Prudential.

I think the company offered me the job because they thought my character suited the company. I always try my best to finish everything quickly to the highest possible standards so I think this also influenced their decision.

Every penny I spend must have value. Our insurance agents earn the money I spend on brand promotion so I need to make sure I spend it responsibly.



Comments from Constance Zhang:

Mu Yan

Mu Yan keeps a low profile, is a very quiet girl and always considers other's feelings. Her work demands the closest attention and care. We want the financial workers keep to the regulations rather than come up with lots of creative ideas. We find that mostly, quiet people do financial work well. Mu is very exact in her job and is a very skilled accountant.

Du Yi

Du Yi's steady and optimistic character impressed us. He works well on his own and in a team. His good command of English and ability to learn convinced us that he was worth taking on. We were worried he would be untrustworthy because he was educated abroad but thankfully he is not.

In the customer service department our employees have to contact with various customers and sometimes they have to endure a lot of pressure. If you are not someone who is fairly laid-back, you will find it hard getting complaints over the phone time and again.

Greece

What Greece did in her internship proved that my judgment in the interview was right. She has strong communication skills and always works with great joy. Her happiness influences the others.

Brand promotion requires that you have a lot of different skills. You need to keep a good relationship with the media and have a feel of how the whole marketing process of the company itself works. Observing every activity or project in Greece's department, I have seen her not only do her work well but also try to help her colleagues, which shows her great communication and cooperation skills. Learning from doing also helps her growth quickly. (Photos by Han Manman)

Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

Enjoy parties, Buddy!

By Feng Nianhua

Marxists regard human beings are social animals; it's the sociality that distinguishes us among animals eating raw birds and their congeners. To the best of my belief, the phenomenon of people's falling over themselves for various parties is just a strong proof for this theory.

I don't know whether the party inherited from salon in the old western countries or from juhui (assembling) in China. But I believe, whatever its historical appearance is, parties I participated in Vancouver really benefited me: I made new friends, relaxed from heavy workload, and knew new information, on what? in any fields!

"Miss parent (or relatives) doubly when festivals", as Wang Wei, one great Tang poet said; I often felt homesick when I was there, especially the time close to the Spring Festival. I still remembered the evening of my second Chinese new year in Canada that I

was invited to my classmate Huei Hsien's parent's home. Her parent came from Taiwan, lived ever a long time in Brazil and finally dwelled in Vancouver. Her family is a big "international family", and the guests they invited that night came from many countries too. That's a really wonderful party, we ate, we drunk, we talked, and we laughed. However, what the most for me is, my homesick pressure was thus relieved a lot.

I don't think eating is an inevitable thing in parties, as a proverb originated from the greatest Chinese historian Sima Qian's Historical Records goes, "The people consider foods as the matter of paramount importance". But, different from that in China, we usually eat in restaurants when parties; in Canada they usually eat at home, not only for Canadian families but for Chinese-background families. So everybody being invited to parties has a chance to show his or

her cooking art! Why not bring one or two your favorite foods to the party? Of course, alternatively, you can bring some gifts such as a bottle of red wine, some candy or whatever you think is appropriate for the owner. Nobody really cares too much about the value of what you brought.

There're many kinds of parties we could meet in regular time, for instance, birthday party, send-off party and Christmas party and so on. What shall you do if you're invited, my suggestion is, if your time is free, just go to the party and enjoy it! If you go to a Canadian family's Christmas party, you can know their festival customs and broaden your sight too.

However, I preferred to the party held by my Chinese friends. There were several Chinese doctoral students in our department. They're a little elder than me, and all married. We got together aperiodically, which gave us a real gossip time

talking about our studies, lives, and even some funny things we heard through varieties of methods. Zhan-sui Yu, a teacher from a Shandong university and my brotherly friend, prepared designedly Chinese white wine for us every time. He often said to me, "Hi, Nianhua, we both come from Shandong, I know you're good at drinking!"

Maybe, my second suggestion is, try to take part in the parties held by your department if your time is flexible, that's a perfect time to strengthen relationships to your professors. You probably have no much chance to chat with them in their offices in such an unrestrained way under the comfortable party air.



Feng Nianhua

John Gordon's reply

Dear Feng Nianhua,

I enjoyed reading your thoughts on parties in Canada, and very much appreciate your desire to share your experiences abroad with others! Now let's look at some ways in which you could improve your article.

First of all, in instead of saying "Marxists regard human beings are social animals", you should say that they regard humans "as social animals". Also, while I can understand your desire to use an advanced word like "congeners", it is more appropriate for a scientific article, and not

this sort of casual essay. It would be better to say "birds and the like", or "birds and other animals". In the next sentence, you should write

"to the best of my knowledge", instead of "to the best of my belief".

In paragraph two, saying that parties "inherited from" salons is awkward; you should probably write "parties evolved from salons". While in Chinese people often say "knew new information", it sounds a bit odd in English, so you should probably write "learned new things". In addition, the end of your second paragraph is awkward. Perhaps you could change it to the following: "What did we learn about, you ask? All sorts of different things!"

In your third paragraph you write that you "still remembered" the evening of Chinese New Year, but you are remembering it from the present, so you should say that you "still remember". You also say that your friend's "parent" came from Taiwan, when we would usually say "parents", unless there was

only one parent, in which case we would usually just directly say "mother" or "father". In addition, you say "That's a really wonderful party", when referring to a party in the past. You should say "It was a really wonderful party," or "The party was really wonderful".

In the next paragraph, you write, "we usually eat in restaurants when parties", but you're missing a verb after "when". Add the verb and you get "we usually eat in restaurants when we have parties". Further on down in your article you ask, "What shall you do if you're invited, my suggestion is..." In English, you usually can't have the question and answer in the same sentence. You can revise this section as follows: "What shall you do if you're invited to a party? My suggestion is to..." Or you could also just say, "If you're invited to a party, my suggestion is

to..." In the next sentence, you say that one can "know" festival customs, whereas in English we would be more likely to say "learn about" festival customs.

You write that you "preferred to the party" held by your Chinese friends, but "preferred" is followed by "to" only when it is followed by a verb. So you could say "I preferred to go to the parties" or "I preferred the parties" held by your Chinese friends. Finally, in your last sentence, instead of saying "have no much chance", you should say "do not have much chance" or "don't have much chance".

Thanks again for sharing your article. You are quite good at telling a story, but you need to work on the accuracy of your English.

Best,

John

John Gordon, from the US, is the vice president of Beijing New Channel School



A dumping double entendre

By Philip Space

For keeping the toilet clean and tidy, please dump at the dust bin.

Another double entendre and a scattering of grammatical errors, turns this otherwise unremarkable sign into a bit of bathroom humor. The word 'dump' can mean two things; to discard something, for example, 'they dumped the litter on the side of the road', or to excrete, for example, 'to take a dump.' The way that this sentence is structured implies that the sign writers want people to excrete into the dustbin, which,



we assume, is not the intention.

A native English speaker would phrase the sentence something like this: 'To keep the toilet clean and tidy, please put waste into the dustbin.'

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see some Chinglish signs, take a picture and send to shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Bottom blunder

By Philip Space

For Restrooms, Go back toward your behind.

This sign is a good example of how a few grammatical errors can turn an otherwise unremarkable sentence into a joke.

The main mistake in the first line is 'Restrooms' which should not be capped up. But it is not until the second line, 'Go back to your behind,' that the comedy element really kicks in.

The word 'behind' has two meanings in English. It can refer to the position of something, for example, 'the cat is behind the tree', or to a person's bottom, for example, 'she has a cute behind'. The use of the word here makes it sound like the sign is referring to the reader's bottom.

A native English speaker would write something along the lines of 'For the restrooms, turn around and walk back in the



direction you came from.'

Photos provided by Purple Haze Restaurant & Bar

(By Chen Shasha)

Friday, July 7

Exhibition**Women and Time**

Photography Exhibition by Xiao Quan

Where: Epson Art Gallery, A203, A210 the Malls, Oriental Plaza, No.1 East Chang An Avenue, Dongcheng

When: until July 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 8518 6556

Ma Yue Sole Exhibition

Where: Gong Gallery, Inside Lido Park, No.6 Fangyuan West Road, Chaoyang

When: until July 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 4060

Movie**Les Bronzes**

An ensemble piece comprising a series of sketches and anecdotes set in a holiday camp on the Ivory Coast – like an African Butlins minus the rides.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 8pm, until July 8

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Music**Mitabe**

Where: Yugong Yishan, Chunxilu Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6415 0687



Saturday, July 8

Exhibition**Behind the Life – Wang Xiangming Solo Exhibition**

Where: Soka Art Center, Room B-101, Sky&Sea Business Plaza, No.107 Dongs Beida Street, Dongcheng

When: until July 30

Tel: 8401 2377

Urbanism in Ink-and-Wash

Where: Creation Art Gallery, Ritan Dong Lu north end, Chaoyang

When: until July 14

Tel: 8561 7570

**Movie****Wasted Orient**

US filmmaker Kevin Fritz followed Chinese punk band *Joyside* on a chaotic, nine-city tour of China and reveals that rock and roll life is one long nightmare for local bands.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: 8pm

Admission: 30-50 yuan

Tel: 13901134745

The Good Earth

The story of a farmer in China: a story of humility and bravery. Wang Lung's father gives him a freed slave to be his wife. Through diligence and frugality the two manage to save up enough money to build a home together.

Where: The Bund, Building 7, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 9pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6417 8288



Sunday, July 9

Exhibition**Gao Runxi**

Where: Melodic Gallery, 14 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang

When:

until July 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6515 8123

360 Degrees

Exhibition featuring the work of five artists from different countries.

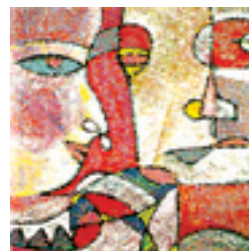
Where:

Imagine Gallery, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: until August 2

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 5747

**Movie****Gazon Maudit**

Serial adulterer Laurent has all the women he wants, and in Loli, a beautiful, blissfully ignored wife...

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 6pm, until July 12

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

**Outdoor****Two Valley Walk**

Where: Follow a valley trail from the Ming tombs across the Great Wall

When: Leave from outside Starbucks, Lido at 8am

Cost: 150-200 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (Beijing Hikers)

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Stage in August

Performance**Winnie the Pooh**

When: August 16-27

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof puppet show

Who: China Puppet Art

Troupe

When: August 11-13

Where: China Puppet Theatre, 1 A Anhua Xili, Chaoyang

Admission: 50-240 yuan

Swan Lake puppet show

Who: China Puppet Art

Troupe

When: August 19-27

Where: China Puppet Theatre, 1 A Anhua Xili, Chaoyang

Admission: 50-240 yuan

Music**Violin Concert**

Who: Renowned violinist

Sheng Zhongguo and his wife, Seta Hiroko

When: August 1

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

Admission: 10-200

The Lion King – Movie Music Symphony Concert

Who: Symphony Orchestra

of the China National Chinese Opera and Dance Drama Company

When: August 6

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

Admission: 10-200

Don't Cry for Me, Argentina

Who: Chinese Oriental Song & Dance Ensemble

When: August 3

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

Admission: 10-200

Beijing Jazz Week

Who: Golden Buddha Jazz Unit

When: August 23-25

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

Admission: 10-200